

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM WALLACE CAMPBELL, director emeritus of the Lick Observatory and president emeritus of the University of California, died by suicide on June 14.

THE birthday honors of King George VI of England include the elevation to the peerage of Sir Josiah Stamp, the economist, director of the Bank of England, in 1936 president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. His title will be Lord Stamp of Shortlands. The Order of Merit was conferred on Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, Plumian professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge and director of the observatory. Lord Stamp arrived in New York on June 9. He gave the commencement address at the Johns Hopkins University on June 14.

THE Lord President of the Council of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, London, has appointed Dr. Ralph Howard Fowler, Plummer professor of applied mathematics in the University of Cambridge, to be director of the British National Physical Laboratory. Dr. Fowler will succeed Dr. W. L. Bragg, who has been elected Cavendish professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge.

AT the centennial commencement exercises of Duke University the degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Dr. Lewis Hill Weed, professor of anatomy and director of the School of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. FLORENCE RENA SABIN, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, received the degree of doctor of science at the commencement exercises of Russell Sage College, Troy, N. Y.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Professor Armin Otto Leuschner, chairman of the department of astronomy and director of the Students' Observatory of the University of California at Berkeley, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth commencement day exercises on May 21. President Sproul made the following citation: "Stimulating teacher, resourceful scholar, able administrator; inspirer of many of America's leading astronomers; authority on minor planets and inventor of effective methods for computing cometary orbits; staunch champion of high standards in education; loyal and unselfish servant of the university for a full half century." On the occasion of Dr. Leuschner's retirement from active service, which takes place on June 30, he will become professor of astronomy and director of the Students' Observatory, emeritus. He has been connected with the university for fifty years, the first two of which were spent at

the Lick Observatory as a graduate student and voluntary assistant.

AT the one hundred and sixth commencement of New York University the degree of doctor of public health was conferred on Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon-general of the U. S. Public Health Service. In conferring this degree Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase said: "Thomas Parran, conspicuous for your services to the public health, you have shown rare intelligence and leadership in your work in our own state and in the nation at large. It is your great achievement to have been responsible in large measure for that marked change in public opinion which has made possible, for the first time in our history, a direct frontal attack on the scourge of social diseases. It is to-day our privilege to pay honor to what you have accomplished for our country and in token thereof I confer upon you the degree of doctor of public health."

PORTRAITS of Professor Edwin Grant Conklin and Professor Charles Freeman Williams McClure will be presented by the department of biology to Princeton University on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 19.

A PORTRAIT of Professor Robert J. Terry, head of the department of anatomy of the Medical School of Washington University, St. Louis, was presented to the university on June 4 by the Medical School Alumni Association at a dinner given in his honor. The establishment was announced of a fund to be known as the Robert J. Terry Fund, which will be used to provide facilities for the promotion of anatomical research. The presentation was made by Dr. Louis H. Jorstad, president of the Alumni Association, and was received on behalf of the university by Chancellor George R. Throop. Professor Terry has been head of the department for thirty-eight years.

A DINNER was given on June 3 in honor of Dr. Horace C. Richards, professor of mathematical physics and director of the Randal Morgan Laboratory of Physics of the University of Pennsylvania, who will retire with the title emeritus on July 1 after teaching for fifty years. The dinner took place at the University Christian Association under the auspices of the Physics Club of Philadelphia. A portrait of Dr. Richards, painted by John Peirce, of Philadelphia, was presented to the university by the club.

THE officers, executive committee and members of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council, for the year beginning July 1, are as follows: *Chairman*, Chester R. Longwell; *Vice-chairman*, Preston E. James; *Executive Committee*, Chester R. Longwell, Preston E. James, Norman L.

Bowen, F. H. Lahee, John L. Rich, John K. Wright; *Representatives of Societies*, Stephen R. Capps and John L. Rich, Geological Society of America; J. F. Schairer, Mineralogical Society of America; Charles E. Resser, Paleontological Society; Preston E. James and C. Warren Thornthwaite, Association of American Geographers; John K. Wright, American Geographical Society; Edson S. Bastin, Society of Economic Geologists; Robert B. Sosman, American Ceramic Society; F. H. Lahee, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; *Members at Large*, Norman L. Bowen, Chester R. Longwell and L. F. Thomas.

DR. EDWARD L. MORELAND, who succeeded Dr. Dugald C. Jackson as head of the department of electrical engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1935, has been appointed dean of engineering. He succeeds Dr. Vannevar Bush, vice-president of the institute, who has resigned to become president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

DR. ELMER CULLER, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed professor of psychology and director of the psychological laboratories at the University of Rochester. He succeeds Dr. Leonard Carmichael, who last February resigned as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and professor of psychology in order to accept the presidency of Tufts College and the directorship of its research program in psychology.

DR. ALLAN C. G. MITCHELL, chairman of the department of physics at New York University (University Heights), has been appointed head of the department of physics at Indiana University.

DR. R. RUDOLF K. BERNHARD, engineer and consultant with the Baldwin-Southwark Corporation, Philadelphia, has been appointed professor and head of the department of mechanics and materials of construction at the Pennsylvania State College. He will succeed P. B. Breneman, who will retire with the title emeritus at the close of the academic year.

DR. ALBERT B. NEWMAN, head of the department of chemical engineering at Cooper Union, has been appointed professor and head of the department of chemical engineering of the College of the City of New York. In keeping with the general plan to develop the school of technology of the college, a separate department of chemical engineering was authorized two years ago by the Board of Higher Education. Until now the development of this department has been under the general supervision of the professor of chemistry, Dr. Herbert R. Moody.

DR. RUTH E. FAIRBANK, associate in psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed professor of hygiene at Mount Holyoke College.

PROFESSOR EDMUND W. SINNOTT, of Barnard College, will in the course of the next two years be transferred from the department of botany of the college to the new laboratory of genetics to be established for research on growth and inheritance in plants and animals, at Columbia University, where he will work in collaboration with Professor Leslie C. Dunn, of the department of zoology. Beginning on July 1 Professor Sinnott will divide his time between the new laboratory and the department of botany at Barnard College.

DR. RICHARD WEISSENBERG, formerly professor extraordinary of anatomy at the University of Berlin and last year visiting professor of cytology at the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, has been appointed a fellow at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology and will undertake research at the Effingham B. Morris Biological Farm at Bristol, Pa.

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, will retire on July 1, when he will have reached the automatic retiring age limit of sixty-five years.

*The Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., states that two joint resolutions for appointment to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, other than members of Congress, were introduced on June 7 by Chairman Keller, of the House Library Committee. One provides that R. Walton Moore, solicitor of the State Department, shall succeed himself for the statutory term of six years after June 29. The other would fill the vacancy caused by the death of Augustus P. Loring by the appointment for the six-year term of Dr. Arthur H. Compton, professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

DR. WILLIAM K. GREGORY, curator of the department of comparative anatomy of the American Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Milo Hellman, research associate in physical anthropology, sailed on June 4 for Pretoria, South Africa, near Aliwal North, Cape Colony.

DR. THOMAS PARRAN, JR., surgeon-general of the U. S. Public Health Service, gave the commencement address at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on June 5.

DR. FRANK CHARLES MANN, director of the Division of Experimental Surgery and Pathology of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., was the commencement speaker at Indiana University on June 13.

PROFESSOR H. E. BIESTER, retiring president of the Iowa State College chapter of Sigma Xi, gave an address on June 11 on "Some Aspects of Virus Infections and Ovine Listerellosis."

DR. HAROLD GLENN MOULTON, president of the Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C., gave the commencement address at Goucher College, Baltimore, on June 7. He discussed the trend in economic thought during the last hundred years.

A "SOCIAL Science Luncheon" will be given in the Quebec Suite of the Chateau Laurier on Thursday, June 30, at 12 o'clock, for all sections and affiliated societies interested in the social sciences and meeting with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Ottawa. The purpose is acquaintance and unofficial planning for the promotion of knowledge of these sciences in connection with the association. There will be brief after-dinner talks by officers of the several groups. The meeting will adjourn at 2 P. M. Members of these organizations and any who are interested may reserve plates for themselves and guests at \$1.25 each by writing to Dr. Leroy Allen, executive secretary of the National Social Science Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu, 1414 E. 4th Ave., Winfield, Kansas. The tickets so reserved may be obtained and paid for at the door of the dining-room, but must be reserved in advance.

A GATHERING of scientific men interested in the precision manufacture of metal products, or analysis of metals, that has come to be known as the "Jena Fall Courses," will be held this year during the last week of September at the Zeiss Works in Jena, Germany. The lectures, many by well-known scientific men, will cover a wide field of subjects, such as spectrographic analysis, the design, manufacture and use of precision measuring instruments, microscopy, metallography, precision methods of gauging and their international importance, etc. The lecture halls will be held open for about four days following the meetings to give opportunity for a study of the instruments discussed at the conference.

ACCORDING to an account in *Nature* a conference on rural health for Far Eastern countries has been held by the Governor-General at Bandoeng, Java. This conference was arranged by the League of Nations Health Organization under the presidency of Dr. T. Offringa, director of the Netherlands Indies Public Health Service, with Dr. J. Rajchman, medical director of the League Health Committee, as secretary, assisted by Dr. C. L. Park, director of the Eastern Bureau of the Health Organization. The conference met in five sections, in which the following subjects were discussed: (1) health and medical services: the advantages and disadvantages of training "semi-qualified" or assistant doctors to assist the qualified medical staff, and possible alternatives; (2) rural reconstruction and collaboration of the population, with the view of improving conditions of life in rural districts, a policy favored by the government of India and other countries; (3) sanitation and sanitary engineering, including housing, water supply, latrines, refuse disposal and fly control; (4) nutrition, a subject of importance in the East, for it has been estimated that seventy-five per cent. of the population of Asiatic countries exists on a diet below the standards fixed by European science; (5) measures necessary to combat specific diseases, such as malaria, plague, tuberculosis, hookworm infection, yaws and leprosy, and mental diseases; also drug addiction.

THE presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., according to the *London Times*, has decided to create a permanent scientific base on Mount Elbrus, in the Caucasus, to be known as the Institute of Research in High Altitudes. The institute will be built at Shelter No. 9, at a height of 13,944 feet, on the site at present occupied by a small high-mountain meteorological station.

## DISCUSSION

### ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIES

IN a recent paper on the salmon of New England, Kendall emphasizes the difference between taxonomic and natural species. Natural species are groups that have certain natural relationships between the individual members and also certain definite (but not necessarily definable) differences from the aggregate of members of other groups. Taxonomic species are convenient groups (we might call them pigeon-holes) in which to include or file away specimens having groupings of characteristics that fall within certain limits of variability. Taxonomic species may or may not conform closely to natural ones. In theory, the two should agree exactly. Whether they do or not is largely a matter of accident and is related directly to our knowledge of the whole group of organisms to

which the various species under consideration may belong. Our increasing knowledge is reflected in the "splitting" to which the specific groups of the older systematists have been subjected. Since we lack the essential completeness of knowledge for entirely accurate definition of species, it must follow that some of our so-called species are actually parts of a single natural one. In other cases, it is just as certain that a taxonomic species will include all or parts of more than one natural species. In still other cases our empiric separations will be essentially correct. A further necessary consequence of our lack of knowledge is that, in many cases, we are not able to delimit correctly the boundaries of species and so are not able to decide whether a given specimen belongs, properly, to one or another. If we knew the complete story of