

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. RUDOLPH MATAS, professor emeritus of vascular surgery at Tulane University, was given the first distinguished service award of the American Medical Association at the San Francisco meeting.

THE medal in ophthalmology of the University of Buffalo has been awarded to Dr. John Bellows, of the Medical School of Northwestern University, for his paper entitled "Biochemical Studies on the Crystalline Lens." This medal is awarded "for outstanding work in ophthalmology."

THE Daniel Guggenheim Medal for 1938 has been awarded to A. H. R. Fedden, chief engineer of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, of England, "for contributions to the development of aircraft engine design and for specific design of the sleeve valve aircraft engine."

DR. JOHN H. DELLINGER, chief of the radio section of the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, received the gold medal of honor of the Institute of Radio Engineers at the opening of the thirteenth annual convention of the institute in New York City on June 16. The Morris Liebmann memorial prize of \$290 was given to George C. Southworth, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, for his work on ultra-high-frequency waves. Arthur L. Samuel, also of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, received an award of \$100 for the best paper published in the *Proceedings* of the institute during 1937.

A SPECIAL supplementary number of the *Journal of Geology* in honor of Professor Emeritus Albert Johannsen, of the University of Chicago, has been issued in recognition of his work in petrography and the crystalline structure of igneous rocks. Dr. Johannsen retired in March, 1937, after serving the university for twenty-seven years. He was an editor of the *Journal of Geology* for nearly thirty years. The volume contains studies by leading workers in his field, including geologists in the universities of Uppsala and Sparreholm, Sweden; Heidelberg and Halle, Germany, and Helsinki, Finland.

THE University of Pennsylvania conferred on June 15 the degree of doctor of laws on Dr. James R. Angell, president emeritus of Yale University, previously professor of psychology at the University of Chicago and now educational counsellor of the National Broadcasting Company.

THE doctorate of science was conferred at the commencement of Lafayette College on Dr. Oliver Hazard Perry Pepper, professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, president of the American Association of Physicians.

THE University of Western Ontario at London, Canada, conferred on June 1 the doctorate of laws on Dr. Henry Asbury Christian, Hersey professor of the theory and practice of physic at Harvard University, who gave the commencement address.

THE doctorate of science was conferred by Rutgers University on June 12 on Dr. Gano Dunn, of New York City, for "achievement in electrical engineering," and on Lincoln Ellsworth, polar explorer.

At the commencement exercises at the Rose Polytechnic Institute on June 4 the address was given by President Harvey N. Davis, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, and honorary degrees of doctor of engineering were conferred on Dr. Davis and on John Boudinot Hunley, the bridge engineer.

At the sixty-seventh annual commencement of Syracuse University the doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. Ferdinand A. Silcox, chief of the U. S. Forest Service.

THE University of North Carolina on June 7 conferred its doctorate of laws on C. S. Brimley, of the division of entomology of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred on June 4 by Santa Clara University, San Jose, Calif., on Dr. J. C. Geiger, director of the Department of Public Health of the City and County of San Francisco.

AN honorary degree was conferred on Dr. Robert A. Millikan, chairman of the executive council of the California Institute of Technology, at the seventy-second commencement of Loyola University, Los Angeles.

THE Case chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, Cleveland, has elected the following officers: *President*, Professor G. E. Barnes; *Vice-president*, Professor Francis Whitacre; *Treasurer*, Dean T. M. Focke, and *Secretary*, Professor Richard S. Burington.

PROFESSOR JOHN B. WHITEHEAD, formerly dean, has been appointed director of the School of Engineering of the Johns Hopkins University, and Professor William B. Kouwenhoven, formerly assistant dean, has been appointed dean.

DR. ROBERT J. TRUMPLER, of the Lick Observatory, has been appointed professor of astronomy in the department of astronomy of the University of California at Berkeley. He succeeds Dr. A. O. Leuschner, whose retirement has been announced. Dr. R. T. Crawford has been appointed chairman of the department.

IN the Medical School of New York University, Dr. Richard P. Hall has been promoted to a professorship

of biology, and Dr. Thomas A. Gonzales, chief medical examiner of New York City, to a professorship of forensic medicine. In the School of Engineering, Arthur C. Coonradt has been advanced to a professorship of mechanical engineering and David B. Porter to a professorship of industrial engineering.

DR. EDWIN E. HEIZER, assistant professor at the Ohio State University, has been appointed head of the newly established department of dairy husbandry in the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin.

MRS. EVELYN CARROLL RUSK, professor of mathematics at Wells College, Aurora, N. Y., has been appointed dean of the college.

DR. H. BURR STEINBACH, of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed assistant professor of zoology at Columbia University; Dr. K. W. Cooper, of the department of zoology of Columbia University, has been appointed instructor in the department of zoology at the University of Rochester.

DR. FOSTER F. RIEKE, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Charles S. French, Austin teaching fellow in biochemistry at Harvard University, have been appointed research instructors in chemistry at the University of Chicago. They will assist Dr. James Franck, who has accepted the professorship of physical chemistry. The Samuel B. Fels Fund of Philadelphia recently provided \$212,000 to support Dr. Franck's work.

DR. HARRY SOBOTKA, chemist to the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, has received a grant from the Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association for studies on "Monomolecular Layers of Physiologically Active Substances." Dr. Elizabeth Shull Russell, of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, has received a grant to continue work on the genetics of tumors in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

DR. ISAIAH BOWMAN, president of the Johns Hopkins University, will be the chairman of the American delegation to the forthcoming International Geographical Congress, to be held at Amsterdam from July 18 to 28.

DR. M. A. BIGELOW, professor of biology in Teachers College, Columbia University, has recently returned from a four months' field trip under the auspices of the American Social Science Association. In addition to attending a number of conferences arranged by state health societies, he visited colleges in the southern states, held conferences with members of faculties and gave lectures and addresses on the social hygiene movement.

SIR THOMAS MIDDLETON has been elected chairman of the British Agricultural Research Council in effect on July 1, when Lord Richard Cavendish, who has been chairman of the council since its establishment in 1931, retires from membership of the council. Sir Thomas Middleton, who has been vice-chairman of the Development Commission since 1929, has been a member of the council since 1931. He is chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council on Soils and Plant Nutrition and of the Committee on the Estimates of Research Institutions.

DR. H. J. GOUGH, superintendent of the department of engineering of the National Physical Laboratory, has been appointed to the new post of director of scientific research at the British War Office.

DR. EDWIN P. HUBBLE, of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, was the principal speaker at the forty-second commencement exercises of the California Institute of Technology.

PROTEIN CHEMISTRY is the subject of the sixth of the Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology, to be held from June 22 to July 21 at the Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I. Papers will be presented by the following: W. T. Astbury, L. G. Barth, Richard J. Block, Henry B. Bull, R. Keith Cannan, Dwight Carpenter, E. J. Cohn, J. F. Danielli, Vincent du Vigneaud, John T. Edsall, Hugo Fricke, Joseph S. Fruton, G. Grabar, Samuel Graff, Michael Heidelberger, R. M. Herbst, Roger Herriott, Eloise Jameson, Forrest E. Kendall, M. Kunitz, Irving Langmuir, H. S. Loring, John W. Mehl, Karl Meyer, Alfred E. Mirsky, Laurence S. Moyer, Hans Neurath, Carl Niemann, W. M. Stanley, Jacinto Steinhardt, Kurt G. Stern, H. B. Vickery, Abraham White, J. W. Williams, Dorothy Wrinch, R. W. Wyckoff. Programs can be obtained from the Biological Laboratory.

AMONG those who will take part in the Symposium on Theoretical Physics, which is to be held at the University of Michigan from June 27 to August 19, are Professor H. A. Kramers, of the University of Leiden, who will lecture throughout the session on "Relativity and Spin" and on the "Radiation Theory"; Professor P. P. Ewald, of the University of Cambridge, England, will lecture on "Multiple Reflection of X-rays in Crystals" and on "How to Look at Crystal Structure Determinations" on June 29 and 30; Professor Gregory Breit, of the University of Wisconsin, on "Nuclear Forces" from July 11 to August 5; Professor H. A. Bethe, of Cornell University, on "Selected Topics in Nuclear Physics," from June 27 to July 15; Assistant Professor E. Bright Wilson, Jr., of Harvard University, on "Chemical Interpretation of Infrared

and Raman Spectra," from July 25 to August 6, and Dr. Frederick Seitz, of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, on "The Theory of the Solid State," from August 1 to August 12.

A NATIONAL Health Conference will be held in Washington, D. C., from July 18 to 20, under the direction of the Departmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities. The conference has been called at the suggestion of President Roosevelt after three years of preliminary work by the interdepartmental committee. It is hoped to be able to formulate policies for the cooperation of the medical and other professions, private organizations, federal, state and local agencies and individual citizens. About one hundred representatives of the medical and other professions, organizations interested in provision for medical service, labor, agriculture and other groups of citizens will attend. Josephine Roche, formerly assistant secretary of the treasury, is chairman of the interdepartmental committee, which consists of officials of the Social Security Board and the Treasury, Agriculture, Interior and Labor Departments. It was appointed by the President on August 15, 1935.

THE Western Division of the American Mining Congress will hold its fifth annual Metal Mining Convention and Exposition at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, from October 24 to 27. There will be addresses by noted industrialists and other public leaders, papers on operating problems and a series of exhibits showing the latest and most efficient equipment for metal mining and preparation for commercial use.

THE Allegany School of Natural History will open its twelfth session in Allegany State Park on July 3. Dr. Robert B. Gordon, assistant professor of botany at the Ohio State University, is director. The school is conducted by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences in cooperation with the University of Buffalo and the Allegany State Park Commission. It is situated in the park, which has 65,000 acres of woods, mountains and streams.

Museum News reports that the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Coral Gables, Florida, was dedicated recently with addresses by David Fairchild, for whom the garden has been named; Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, administrator of botanical collections of Harvard University; Walter T. Swingle, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and L. H. Bailey, Bailey Hortorium, New York College of Agriculture. The garden contains several hundred acres of land with three varieties of soil—high land, hammock (forest) land, and low land. Twenty-five acres owned by the garden will be known as the Montgomery Palmetum, with mango, avocado and citrus, also mammea

apple and live oaks. This twenty-five acres and fifty-eight additional acres were given by Colonel and Mrs. Robert H. Montgomery; the remainder of the land was contributed by the Dade County Commissioners, who retain title to all but the twenty-five acres. Colonel and Mrs. Montgomery have given, in addition to land, more than 200 species of palms and flowering trees with funds for planting and for roads, walls, etc., in the twenty-five acre tract. Plans for the garden have been prepared by William Lyman Phillips, in consultation with Noel Chamberlain. K. Dahlberg is superintendent, and A. C. Jordahn, associate superintendent.

PROVISION has been made for the continuance through 1938 of the projects of the Works Progress Administration under way at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. The projects this year will employ approximately 200 persons, and will be conducted along the same lines as those of 1937. Last year the number ranged from 167 to 199; their aggregate working time amounted to 240,000 hours; and the total amount of wages paid to them was \$174,200. Although the efforts of the WPA workers have been utilized chiefly in routine tasks there is said to have been a large number of workers who have proved capable of scientific research undertakings, artistic work and other activities calling for knowledge, training and skill and talent. Some were qualified by past experience, while others, possessing native ability, were trained at the museum. This group has contributed to the museum's scientific publications, to the preparation of new exhibits, the making of maps and charts and the binding of books in the library. It is emphasized that no regular employee on the payroll of the museum has been displaced by the employment of WPA workers.

THE National Hospital, Queen Square, London, which is a research center in neurology, has, according to the *London Times*, long been hampered in its work by lack of space and equipment. It is now proposed to rebuild the hospital, which was established in 1859, and provide new departments for the study and cure of nervous diseases. Sir George Broadbridge, chairman of the appeal committee of the hospital, recently made a statement to the effect that the Rockefeller Trustees had recognized the importance of the work done there and the difficulties under which it was carried out. They had offered £60,000 towards building new laboratories, research department and surgical and medical wards, and £60,000 towards the endowment of research on condition that the British public subscribed the remaining cost of those buildings and their equipment in the near future. In addition a new nurses' home was required.

The new buildings were estimated to cost £180,000. The hospital was therefore appealing for a sum of £120,000. The grant by the Rockefeller Trustees, he added, was a great tribute to the hospital and a noble gesture of international good will. If the appeal were successful the hospital would be enabled to build mod-

ern laboratories, lecture and teaching rooms, operation theaters with x-ray room attached and surgical and medical wards for special cases under research observation. It was also desired to provide private nursing rooms for pay-patients of moderate means and a new nurses' home.

DISCUSSION

AMERICANS AND THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

THE development of American astronomy has an international side, and therefore, the biography and the history of science can profit by the study of its relation with organized astronomy abroad. In this connection, the publications, minutes of meetings and the files of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, founded in 1820, are not without interest.

In the list of associates of the society, an honor given to foreign astronomers, Nathaniel Bowditch is the first American, elected in 1829. The proposers were weak in details:

Astronomical Society of London

We, the undersigned, having a personal knowledge of and being acquainted with the works of Professor [Nathaniel—filled in with pencil] Bowditch of Boston in Connecticut, U. S. Author of a treatise on Navigation and translator of the *Mécanique Céleste* into English which he is now publishing with notes believe him to be a person eminent in the [field?] of Astronomy, and therefore propose and recommend him as a proper person to become an associate of the Astronomical Society of London.

Witness our hand this 13th day of February 1829.

W. H. Shirreff
J. F. W. Hershel
J. South.

Proposed March 13, 1829.

Elected May 8, 1829.

Ferdinand Hassler was elected the following year, having been proposed by J. L. Tiarks, Edw. Troughton, Richard Sheepshanks, F. Beaufort, Francis Bailey, Davies Gilbert and J. South. He had attracted their attention by his work on the Coast Survey, his publications on trigonometry and a "popular system" of astronomy.¹

But the council reported with regret to the society on February 14, 1834, that no steps have been taken in America to encourage the science of astronomy, and that the hope expressed by the president, Francis Bailey, in 1825 had been disappointed. There should be a public observatory.² By 1847 the council had reported that the apathy no longer prevailed.³ They were especially delighted with the equatorial telescope,

with a 12-inch aperture, that Cincinnati had acquired. They followed closely the work at the Naval Observatory and Harvard. At a meeting on December 14, 1849, the president and astronomer royal gave an oral statement "On the Method of observing and recording Transits, lately introduced in America. . ."⁴ He said:

The Americans of the United States, although late in the field of astronomical enterprise, have now taken up that science with their characteristic energy, and have already shown their ability to instruct their former masters.

As R. A. Sampson writes, it is the decade 1840 to 1850 when American observatories and workers come definitely into the society's field of view.⁵ W. C. Bond was made an associate in 1849, and soon was joined by his compatriots: B. Peirce, A. D. Bache, O. M. Mitchel, S. C. Walker, Maury and Brunnow.⁶ In the early years, and up to 1856, an associate was recommended for election not only in recognition of his past achievements, but also in the hope of his future service. He was to cooperate with the society, and thus, official positions counted for much.

In 1858, 7 out of 52 associates were American; in 1901, 14 out of 43; in 1934, 20 out of a list of 45. From the origin of the society I count 59 American associates. The interchange of ideas, of course, is also forwarded by Americans on the List of Fellows.

The list of the Americans to receive the high honor of the society's gold medal is given below. Professor G. P. Bond was the first to receive it. Bond had visited Europe in 1851 and 1863, and had become known to the council by his "Annals of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College," volume III. Special mention was made to his application of photography to astronomical observations.⁷

G. P. Bond	—1865
Simon Newcomb	—1874
Asaph Hall	—1879
B. A. Gould	—1883

⁴ *Monthly Notices*, v. 10, p. 26.

⁵ "History of the R.A.S.," London, 1923, by various writers. The statement, p. 105, that Bond is the first American Associate is not correct.

⁶ The obituary notices throughout the *Monthly Notices* are revealing. See especially that of W. C. Bond, v. 20, p. 118.

⁷ *Monthly Notices*, v. 25, pp. 125–137. The course of astronomy in the U. S. as it appeared to the British can be followed in presentation addresses and elsewhere in the *Monthly Notices*. Three general indexes are useful.

¹ Mss. certificate.

² *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, v. 3, p. 30; *Memoirs of the R.A.S.*, v. 2, p. 25.

³ *Monthly Notices*, v. 7, 225–226.