

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Colorado School of Mines at Golden conferred at commencement an honorary degree of doctor of philosophy on Dr. Victor C. Alderson. The degree was in the form of a diploma engraved upon a solid silver plate and encased in hand-tooled leather. Dr. Alderson was president of the school from 1903 to 1913, and from 1917 to 1924.

THE degree of doctor of pharmacy was conferred at commencement by the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on George W. Merck, president of Merck and Company, Rahway, N. J., and on Dr. Arno Viehoveer, research professor of biology and biochemistry at the college.

ROGER WILLIAMS, chemical director of the ammonia department of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, received the honorary degree of doctor of science at the commencement exercises of West Virginia University, "in recognition of his distinguished services in chemical research, particularly in the field of high pressure synthesis leading to the commercial processes now so prominent in West Virginia's industrial community."

THE honorary degree of doctor of science will be conferred by the University of Oxford on July 30 on Dr. Charles Gustave Jung, professor of psychology at Zurich.

AN oil painting of Dr. James Carroll Flippin, dean and professor of internal medicine at the University of Virginia, has been presented to the university by the alumni and graduating class of 1938. The university conferred on him the honorary degree of doctor of science at its commencement exercises.

AT Tulane University, plaques commemorating the retirement of William B. Gregory, professor of experimental engineering and hydraulics, for forty-four years a member of the faculty, and of Herman F. Hustedt, a member of the faculty for fifty-four years in the department of mechanic arts, were presented to the college by members of the senior engineering class on June 16. They will be hung in the engineering building.

DR. WILBER DWIGHT ENGLE, emeritus vice-chancellor and professor of chemistry of the University of Denver, was at commencement presented with a "Memory Book," containing letters of appreciation from faculty members, friends and former students, and also a "Memorial Chair" in the Central City Opera House. Dr. Engle served the university as teacher, dean, vice-chancellor and on two occasions as acting chancellor, from 1894 to 1937, when he retired.

Nature reports that Dr. C. Thurstan Holland, of

Liverpool; Professors R. Keinböck, of Vienna; Holtusen of Hamburg; Hans Meyer, of Bremen; Perussia, of Milan; De Quervain, of Bern, and Regaud, of Paris, were elected to honorary membership in the Swiss Röntgen Society, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the society.

SIR ALDO CASTELLANI, head of the department of tropical medicine at the Louisiana State University, has been elected an honorary member of the Hanseatic University of Hamburg.

THE Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education on June 29 presented the Lamme Medal for achievement to Robert Lemuel Sackett, dean of the School of Engineering at the Pennsylvania State College from 1915 to 1937, in recognition of "his work in coordinating the thought of industry and education for the improvement of their understanding of their mutual problem in selecting and developing potential leaders." Dr. S. B. Earle, president of the society and dean of engineering at Clemson Agricultural College, made the presentation at the annual dinner. George B. Thomas, personnel director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, made the citation.

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia awarded on July 14 the Alvarenga Prize to Dr. Richard E. Shope, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., for his recent researches on the etiology and epidemiology of influenza. This prize was established by the will of Pedro Francisco deCosta Alvarenga, of Lisbon, an associate fellow of the College of Physicians, "to be awarded annually on each anniversary of the death of the testator on July 14, 1883, to the author of the best unpublished essay upon any branch of medicine deemed worthy of the prize."

THE fiftieth anniversary of the election to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, of M. A. d'Arsonval, of the University of Paris, who is now eighty-seven years old, was celebrated on June 7 by the presentation to him of a medal by the academy. At the close of an address made by Professor Fernand Bezangon, president of the academy, M. d'Arsonval spoke in acknowledgment for half an hour.

OFFICERS of the American Medical Association were elected at the San Francisco meeting as follows: *President-elect*, Dr. Rock Sleyster, Wauwatosa, Wis.; *Vice-president*, Dr. Howard Morrow, San Francisco. Dr. Olin West, Chicago, was reelected *secretary*. The convention in 1939 will be held in St. Louis, in 1940 in New York City and in 1941 in Cleveland.

THE following officers were elected at the annual meeting on June 10 in San Francisco of the American

Society of Clinical Pathologists: *President-elect*, Dr. L. W. Larson, Bismarck, N. Dak.; *Vice-president*, Dr. W. Cummins, San Francisco; *Executive Committee*, Dr. C. W. Maynard, Pueblo, Colo., Dr. O. W. Lohr, Saginaw, Mich.; *Board of Registry*, Dr. P. Hillkowitz, Denver, Dr. K. Ikeda, St. Paul; *Board of Censors*, Dr. W. S. Thomas, Clifton Springs, N. Y., Dr. I. A. Nelson, Tulsa, Okla. Dr. B. T. Terry, of Tacoma, Washington, was awarded the gold medal for his exhibit "Aids in the Rapid Diagnosis of Tissues." Dr. T. B. Magath, Rochester, Minnesota, is president for the coming year.

DR. MARCUS STULTS FARR, associate professor of geology and paleontology at Princeton University, retires this year from active teaching. He joined the faculty of the university in 1896. Since then he has served the university continuously, except for two years, from 1898 to 1900, when he was assistant zoologist in the New York State Museum at Albany.

DR. JOHN A. GOFF, professor of thermodynamics at the University of Illinois and a consultant for the Westinghouse Research Laboratories, has been appointed dean of the Towne Scientific School of the University of Pennsylvania. He also will hold the Whitney professorship of dynamical engineering. He succeeds the late Dr. Robert H. Fernald.

F. ELLIS JOHNSON, dean of the college of engineering at the University of Missouri, has been appointed dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin.

AT Yale University, Dr. Lorande Loss Woodruff, professor of protozoology, has been appointed chairman of the department of zoology and director of the Osborn Zoological Laboratory.

RECENT appointments to the faculty of the Peiping Union Medical College are Dr. Otto Kraye, associate professor of pharmacology at the Harvard Medical School, to the chair of pharmacology, beginning in September, 1939, and Dr. Frank E. Whitacre, assistant professor in obstetrics at the University of Chicago, to the chair of obstetrics and gynecology, beginning in January, 1939.

PROFESSOR J. IRVINE MASSON has been elected to the office of vice-chancellor of the University of Sheffield, which is about to become vacant owing to the retirement of Dr. A. W. Pickard-Cambridge. Professor Masson holds the chair of chemistry and is head of the department of pure science in the University of Durham.

SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT SMITH, regius keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, has been named to the honorary professorship of botany of the Royal Horticultural Society in the place of the late Dr. A. B. Rendle.

THE council of the British National Institute of Agricultural Botany has appointed M. A. Bailey, director of research to the Government of Sudan, director of the institute in succession to the late W. H. Parker.

The Museum News states that Dr. Wendell C. Bennett, assistant curator of anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed field curator for the Pacific Basin exhibit of the Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco. He is working this month at Lima, Peru, assembling the Peruvian exhibition for the exposition.

DR. WILLIAM EWART LAWRENCE, assistant professor of sociology at Western Reserve University, has been granted leave of absence for the semester beginning in September to go to Yale University to make a cross-cultural survey of the primitive tribes of Australia for the Institute of Human Relations in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation. The study will be organized under Professor George P. Murdock, director of the Institute of Human Relations.

DR. FRANZ HABER, who during the war developed methods of extracting nitrogen from the air for producing explosives, has taken up his residence in England.

DR. CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE, professor of pharmacology at the University of California, gave a Mayo Foundation lecture at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., on June 6 on "Pharmacologic Aspects of Central Nervous System Activity."

LEADING workers in the study of cosmic rays met at the University of Chicago on June 28 and 29 for an informal exchange of recent experimental data and for discussion of new theories about the nature of the rays made necessary by the new evidence. Professor Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago; Dr. M. S. Vallarta, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. T. H. Johnson and Dr. W. F. G. Swann, of the Bartol Research Foundation; Professor J. C. Street, of Harvard University, and Professors W. M. Nielsen and L. W. Nordheim, of Duke University, presented papers at the symposium.

THE Illinois Society of Consulting Psychologists, now in its third year of existence, recently elected the following officers for the year 1938-1939: *President*, Dr. Arthur W. Kornhauser, of the University of Chicago; *Vice-president*, Dr. Andrew W. Brown, of the Institute for Juvenile Research, Chicago; and *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Helen L. Koch, of the University of Chicago.

THE London *Times* reports that the British Universities Polar Expedition recently arrived at Leith in the Norwegian sealing vessel *Isbjohn*. The ten mem-

bers of the expedition were under the leadership of J. M. Wordie, of St. John's College, Cambridge, who sailed with Shackleton to the Arctic in 1914. The main purpose of the expedition was to study cosmic rays at high altitudes near the North Magnetic Pole. Six new fjords and several islands and bays on the north-east coast of Baffin Land, between Cape Bowen and Cape Antrobus, were discovered. A running survey of about 600 miles of new coastline was made in about a fortnight. Many ancient Eskimo settlements around Baffin Bay were excavated, throwing new light upon the origin of the Greenland Eskimo and the routes by which the Eskimo entered Greenland from Alaska and Baffin Land. The expedition has brought back what is said to be the finest representative series of Eskimo antiquities, and which will be deposited in the Cambridge Museum.

THE London *Times* also states that H. W. Tilman, who led the party which climbed Nanda Devi, will lead the British expedition to Mount Everest this year. Nanda Devi (25,645 feet) is the highest peak in the British Empire, and the highest yet climbed. Mr. Tilman was a member of the reconnaissance party in the 1935 Mount Everest expedition. Permission for the attempt has been granted by the Tibetan authorities.

SIR WILLIAM BRAGG, president of the Royal Society, on June 9 officially opened the Meyerstein Institute of Radio-Therapy at the Middlesex Hospital, London, when Sir Edward Meyerstein, who has already contributed £30,000 towards the cost of the institute, announced his intention of giving the remaining £16,000 necessary to defray the cost. The institute is a compact and complete unit in which all forms of radio-therapy are available for both in-patients and out-patients, whether hospital or private. It is closely linked to the main hospital. There are four floors devoted to treatment with radium and x-rays, while sixty-four hospital beds in four wards and six private-patient rooms house those in-patients receiving treatment under the care of the honorary physicians and surgeons of the hospital.

IN June, 1935, A. T. Marston was responsible for the discovery of a human occipital bone at a depth of 24 feet from the surface in the stratified Middle Gravels of the 100-foot terrace of the Thames at Swanseombe, Kent. The following March he discovered a left parietal bone, which it is stated articulated perfectly with the occipital. A committee under the auspices of the institute has been formed to investigate the evidence which has been collected and to cooperate in the further exploration of the site. This committee consists of M. A. C. Hinton, keeper of zoology, British Museum, *chairman*; K. P. Oakley, department of

geology, British Museum; *secretary*; Professor P. G. H. Boswell, department of geology, Imperial College of Science; Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark, department of anatomy, University of Oxford; Dr. F. Corner; H. G. Dines, Geological Survey of Great Britain; C. F. C. Hawkes, department of British antiquities, British Museum; Professor W. B. R. King, department of geology, University College, London; A. T. Marston; Dr. G. M. Morant, Galton Laboratory, University College, London, and S. Hazzledine Warren. The committee is receiving financial support from the Royal Society.

AN extension of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute in Parks Road, Oxford, England, providing extra library accommodation and six extra rooms for research, as well as one for calculating machines, was opened by W. S. Morrison, Minister of Agriculture, on June 4. The London *Times* writes: "It was just a generation ago that the institute began, in one room. The next year, 1914, it moved to Broad Street, and in 1919 there was a big reconstruction, with a grant augmented to £4,000. There was another in 1932, when eight rooms were added to the Parks Road Accommodation, and the present extension, costing £1,750, will give adequate provision for the staff of twenty-six members, under the direction of C. S. Orwin." A review of the work of the institute was issued on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation.

ACCORDING to a summary of the Registrar General's Statistical Record of England and Wales for 1935, which was issued on February 6, the estimate of the population of England and Wales in the middle of 1935 was 40,645,000 persons, of whom 19,500,000 were males and 21,145,000 females. The total was 178,000 greater than the estimate for the previous year. The average ages of the population were 32.7 years for males and 34.5 for females. These are gradually increasing; in 1921 they were 29.9 and 31.2, respectively. The marriages registered during 1935 numbered 349,536, an increase of 7,229 compared with 1934. The number of divorces in 1935 was 4,069, higher than in any previous year except 1934, and the number of divorced persons who remarried, 5,662, was a record. The live births registered in the year were 598,756, or 1,114 more than in 1934. The corresponding birth-rate was 14.7 per 1,000 population. A comparison with the rates in many other countries showed that only three of them—Austria, Norway and Sweden—had lower rates. The number of male births exceeded the number of female births in the ratio of 1,056 to 1,000. This ratio was approached in 1843 and 1844, when 1,054 was recorded, but it has only been exceeded once—in 1919, with a ratio of 1,060.