

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE doctorate of science of the University of Oxford was conferred on December 10 on Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the research laboratories of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, N. Y. Dr. Langmuir delivered on December 8 the first lecture at the Royal Institution, London, under the plan sponsored by the Pilgrim Trust for interchange of lecturers between the Royal Society and the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. His subject was "Molecular Films." Sir William Bragg, president of the Royal Society, will deliver the first lecture to be given in America on April 24 at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington.

A. CRESSY MORRISON was reelected to the presidency of the New York Academy of Sciences at the annual dinner meeting on December 14. Honorary fellowships were conferred on Professor Edwin G. Conklin, of Princeton University, executive vice-president of the American Philosophical Society; on Dr. Ross Granville Harrison, of Yale University, chairman of the National Research Council, and on Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the General Electric Company. Eighteen scientific men were elected fellows. Other officers elected were: *Vice-presidents*, Ida H. Ogilvie, Robert T. Rock, Jr., Horace E. Wood, 2d, Harry L. Shapiro and Duncan A. MacInnes; *Recording Secretary*, Frederick H. Pough; *Corresponding Secretary*, Roy Waldo Miner; *Treasurer*, Wyllys Rosseter Betts; *Librarian*, John Hendley Barnhart; *Editor*, Erich M. Schlaikjer; *Councilors*, W. Reid Blair and G. Kingsley Noble; *Financé Committee*, Herbert F. Schwarz, John D. Sherman, Jr., and Wayne M. Faunce. The speakers were Professor Victor K. LeMer, of Columbia University, who discussed the velocity of chemical reactions, and Dr. Roy Waldo Miner, curator of living invertebrates at the American Museum of Natural History, who described his expedition to the South Seas in 1936 to study pearl shell.

At the annual meeting of the New England Water Works Association, J. R. Baylis, physical chemist of Chicago, was awarded the Dexter Brackett Memorial Medal "in recognition of his outstanding work in water purification."

DR. HANS A. BETHE, professor of physics at Cornell University, was presented with the Morrison Prize of \$500 at the annual dinner meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences and affiliated societies "for the best paper on solar and stellar energy" entitled "Energy Production in Stars." Winners of two other Morrison prizes of \$200 each were Dr. F. Gaynor Evans, of the University of New Hampshire, for his

paper on "The Morphology and Functional Evolution of the Atlas-Axis Complex from Fish to Mammals," and Dr. Norwood C. Thornton, of the Boyce Thompson Institute, Yonkers, N. Y., for his paper on "Oxygen Regulates the Dormancy in the Potato." Funds for the prizes were provided by A. Cressy Morrison, president of the academy.

At the annual general meeting of the London Mathematical Society its De Morgan Medal was presented to Professor J. E. Littlewood, "for his contributions to mathematical knowledge."

PROFESSOR FRANK B. ROWLEY, director of the Engineering Experiment Laboratories of the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota, a former president of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, has been awarded the F. Paul Anderson Medal of the society, which will be presented to him at a meeting in Pittsburgh in January.

IN recognition of his "distinguished services, particularly in connection with the current construction of the 392-mile Colorado River Aqueduct," F. E. Weymouth, general manager and chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of southern California, has been elected an honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

At a recent meeting of microbiologists at the Pasteur Institute of Paris, Professor Martin, director of the institute, conferred the insignia of the grand cross of the Legion of Honor on behalf of the French Government on Professor Jules Bordet, director of the Pasteur Institute of Brussels, in recognition of his work on immunology.

DR. W. K. HATT, research professor of Purdue University, will retire on January 1 with the title of emeritus professor of civil engineering after forty-five years of service. Following a short period of travel to Australia he will maintain residence at Purdue University.

WORD has reached this country that the editor of the *Zentralblatt für Mathematik und ihre Grenzgebiete*, Professor Otto Neugebauer, now of Copenhagen, has resigned. The resignation from this mathematical abstracts journal was occasioned by the action of the publisher, Julius Springer, of Berlin, in dropping Professor Levi-Civita, of Italy, from the board without the knowledge of the editor, as well as by the demand that the editor give assurance that no emigrants would be allowed to referee articles by German authors. In consequence of this interference with editorial policies, the associated editors resident in America, Professors Courant, Tamarkin and Veblen, have tendered their

resignations, as have also a number of associate editors and collaborators in other countries.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER FRANCIS W. REICHELDERFER has been appointed acting chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, succeeding Dr. Willis R. Gregg, who died last September. Commander Reichelderfer had charge of reorganizing and developing the Naval Meteorological Service. In 1928 he was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, N. J., and later served as meteorologist on several flights and expeditions.

DR. ROSS T. MCINTIRE, for the last five years White House physician, has been appointed surgeon general of the Navy with the rank of rear admiral. He has held since June, 1934, permanent rank of commander, and was appointed medical inspector with the rank of captain in 1935, to remain in effect during his assignment as physician at the White House.

DR. ROBERT A. BLACK, professor of pediatrics, Loyola University School of Medicine, has been appointed president of the Chicago Board of Health. He will fill this position during the absence of Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, who has been granted leave pending the outcome of the government's anti-trust action against the milk industry.

DR. H. L. TIDY has been elected dean of the Medical School, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, in place of the late Professor Leonard S. Dudgeon.

DR. EARL D. BOND, director of the Institute for Mental Hygiene and head of the department of nervous diseases of the Pennsylvania Hospital, has resigned to devote his time to research. He will be succeeded by Dr. Lauren H. Smith, a member of the executive staff of both units since 1926. Dr. Bond will continue as vice-dean for psychiatry and professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine.

N. F. WATERS, of the department of poultry husbandry at the Iowa State College, has resigned, to become senior geneticist at the regional laboratory for poultry research in East Lansing, Mich.

DR. JAMES B. MURPHY, chief of the Cancer Research Division of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, and Dr. Mont R. Reid, director of surgical service of the Cincinnati General Hospital and professor of surgery at the University of Cincinnati, have been appointed members for three-year terms of the National Advisory Cancer Council. They succeed Dr. Francis C. Wood, director of the Crocker Institute of Cancer Research of Columbia University, and Dr. James Ewing, director of the Memorial Hospital, New York, both of whom were named as original members of the council in 1937.

Other members of the council are: President James B. Conant, of Harvard University; Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago; Dr. C. C. Little, managing director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, emeritus professor of pathology of the University of Chicago.

THE Ramsay Memorial Fellowship Trustees have made the following awards of new fellowships of the value of £300 for the year 1938-39: Dr. Vernon Hollis Booth, a British fellowship, tenable for two years, at the University of Cambridge; Donald McNeil, a Glasgow fellowship, tenable for two years, at the University of Glasgow; Dr. Alfred G. Epprecht, a Swiss fellowship, tenable for one year, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. The trustees have renewed the following fellowships for a second year: Dr. A. E. Alexander (British fellow), at the University of Cambridge; Dr. E. de Salas (Spanish fellow), at University College, London; Dr. J. J. Hermans (Netherlands fellow), at University College, London; M. Jean Monvoisin (French fellow), at the Royal Institution, London; Hazime Oosaka (Japanese fellow), at University College, London.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard Observatory, has recently returned from a trip of inspection to the Boyden Station of the observatory in Bloemfontein, South Africa. After attending the meeting of the International Astronomical Union in Stockholm early in August, Dr. Shapley went to England, where he was one of the invited speakers at the Cambridge meeting of the British Association. From London he flew to South Africa. After a stay of five weeks at Harvard Kopje, he returned by boat. While in South Africa he gave addresses to the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, University College of Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, and the South African Association for the Advancement of Science.

RUDYERD BOULTON, curator of birds at the Field Museum, Chicago, during November conducted field work in southern Mississippi, near Ocean Springs. At the invitation of Messrs. James R. Leavell and Carl A. Birdsall, of Chicago, owners of a large tract of wilderness land in this region, he participated in a preliminary natural history survey to determine the possibilities for conservation projects and special zoological studies.

DR. DORA ILSE, who has been working for the past two years in the laboratory of Dr. Imms, at the University of Cambridge, lectured at the University of Colorado on December 3, on the reactions of butterflies and bees to colors. The lecture was illustrated by moving pictures. Dr. Ilse has also lectured at various other American universities, including Cornell, Illinois,

Minnesota, Kansas, California, and at the American Museum of Natural History.

DR. J. W. BEAMS, professor of physics at the University of Virginia, delivered a lecture on "High-Speed Centrifuging" before the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, on the evening of December 15.

SIR EDWARD MELLANBY, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Fullerian professor of physiology in the Royal Institution and secretary of the Medical Research Council, has been appointed Rede lecturer for the year 1939.

A GRADUATE course on electron optics and electron microscopy will be offered by the department of physics of the University of Pennsylvania during the second semester. The course will be given by Dr. L. Marton, lecturer in physics at the university and associate of the RCA Manufacturing Company, together with Drs. G. A. Morton and E. G. Ramberg, of the Electronics Research Division of the company. The lectures will be given on Wednesday afternoons from five to six P.M., in the Randal Morgan Laboratory of Physics.

RECENT lecturers before the department of geology and geography, Northwestern University, were: Dr. W. H. Voskuil, mineral economist, Illinois Geological Survey, on "Economics of Mineral Production"; Dr. Clyde P. Ross, geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, on "Cinnabar Deposits of California"; Dr. Helen M. Strong, soil conservationist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on "Soil Conservation Methods"; Dr. D. F. Hewett, geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, on "Mining Geology in the Western United States"; Professor Clarence F. Jones, School of Geography, Clark University, on "South America, from the Caribbean to the Argentine"; Dr. Benjamin B. Cox, Vacuum Oil Company, on "Modern Petroleum Development"; Professor J. H. Maxson, California Institute of Technology, on "Geological Studies in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado"; Dr. Harold T. Stearns, U. S. Geological Survey, Hawaii, on "Hawaiian Volcanoes"; Dr. Takeo Watanabe, University of Sapporo, Japan, on "Japanese Geological Institutes"; and Professor G. W. White, University of New Hampshire, on "Novya Zemlya."

THE Eastern railroads have announced a reduction in rates from December 15 to January 10 with the usual stop-over privileges for those expecting to attend the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Richmond, Virginia, from December 27 to 31. Round-trip railway coach fares will be reduced by 20 per cent., to two cents per mile. Pullman fares will be reduced by 10 per cent. to 2.7 cents per mile.

THE Western Chemical Congress will meet in Au-

gust, 1939, during the Golden Gate International Exposition. A number of societies, associations and industrial corporations are interested in planning for the congress and are cooperating with a committee of technologists on the Pacific Coast. The major theme is stated as "The Place of Chemistry in Modern Life," and it has the object to foster advancement of chemical knowledge and development of chemical process industries in the West. Facilities are to be arranged for separate meetings of the various societies and associations participating.

It is announced that the new electroencephalographic laboratories of the Montreal Neurological Institute will be opened during the first week of January. The work to be done in these laboratories has been made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to promote research in epilepsy and dementia. Funds contributed by a group of Montrealers, who have been interested in the institute since its inception, provided for the building of an extension necessary for this work. Since the opening of the institute in September, 1934, extensive researches in epilepsy have been carried out under the direction of Dr. Wilder Penfield, director of the institute and professor of neurology and neuro-surgery at McGill University. The electroencephalographic laboratories will be under the direction of Herbert H. Jasper, Ph.D. (Iowa), D. ès Sci. (Paris). Dr. Jasper, after post-graduate work in Iowa and Oregon, studied for two years at the Sorbonne. Previous to going to Montreal he was assistant professor of psychology at Brown University and director of the Neurophysiological Laboratories and the Psychological Clinic at Bradley Hospital, Providence, R. I.

A STATUTE was promulgated on November 1 at the University of Oxford, establishing the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology and providing accommodation for it at 39, Museum Road. Its functions will be to carry out research into problems of ornithology with special reference to the numbers, distribution, movements, habits and economic status of British birds, to collect, coordinate and supply information on these subjects obtained from published sources and from field observers, and to publish the results of its work by means of printed papers, informal instruction or lectures.

COURSES in television have recently been planned by the Radio Corporation of America. For those who have had no previous training in radio engineering the course requires a period of two years in the day school or five years in the evening school. Special Television Units of six months duration in the day school or of one year in the evening school are available to applicants possessing adequate technical background.