

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE seventy-fifth birthday of Dr. Frank M. Chapman, curator of birds and member of the scientific staff of the American Museum of Natural History for more than fifty years, was observed on June 12 at a luncheon in the Flying Bird Hall which was attended by members of the scientific and administrative staffs and by friends of Dr. Chapman. After the luncheon Dr. John T. Zimmer, executive curator of birds, presented him with a volume of a hundred and fifty birthday letters from friends throughout the world, and F. Trubee Davison, president of the museum, unveiled a bronze bust of Dr. Chapman, the work of Mrs. Bessie Potter Vonnoh. It will be installed permanently in one of the bird halls.

FRIENDS and associates of W. W. Skinner tendered him a dinner on May 16 to celebrate his appointment as associate chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, which after July 1 will be known as the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering. Dr. Skinner has been identified with the bureau for thirty-five years. H. G. Knight, chief of the bureau, acted as toastmaster.

THE doctorate of laws was conferred by St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y., on June 12 on Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who gave the principal address.

DR. S. C. LIND, dean of the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science by Washington and Lee University at its one hundred and ninetieth commencement on June 9.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY conferred at its commencement exercises the degree of doctor of science upon Dr. Dexter S. Kimball, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering of Cornell University.

DR. MERRITT F. MILLER, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri, has received the degree of doctor of science from the Ohio State University.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on June 13 by Waynesburg College, Pennsylvania, on Dr. Edward R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute, who delivered the commencement address.

AT Christ's College, Cambridge, Dr. Charles Galton Darwin, who recently retired from the mastership of the college to take up the appointment of director of the National Physical Laboratory, has been elected into an honorary fellowship of the college.

DR. SIGISMUND S. GOLDWATER, commissioner of hospitals of New York City, recently received the

third annual award of the City Club. This award is made annually to "a non-elective public servant who has in the estimation of the trustees rendered outstanding public service to the city."

PROFESSOR HERISSEY, who holds the chair of biological chemistry at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, and Professor Léon Binet, who holds the chair of physiology, have been elected to membership in the Paris Academy of Medicine. Professor Marc Tiffeneau, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, has been elected a member of the Academy of Sciences.

DR. E. D. ADRIAN, professor of physiology, will represent the University of Cambridge at the bicentenary ceremonies of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, which will be held on September 23, 24 and 25.

AT the recent anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London the following officers were elected for the year 1939-40: *President*, Dr. John Ramsbottom; *Treasurer*, Francis Druce; *Secretaries*, Isaac H. Burkill (botany) and Dr. Malcolm A. Smith (zoology); *New Members of Council*, Professor T. M. Harris, H. R. Hewer, Professor T. G. B. Osborn, H. W. Parker and Dr. Malcolm A. Smith.

AT the annual general meeting of the British Institute of Physics the following officers were elected: *President*, Professor W. L. Bragg; *Vice-president*, Professor A. Ferguson; *Honorary Treasurer*, Major C. E. S. Phillips; *Honorary Secretary*, Professor J. A. Crowther; *New Members of the Board*, Dr. H. Lowery and R. S. Whipple, and J. H. Awbery, appointed by the Physical Society.

DR. JOHN Y. GRAHAM, since 1897 professor of biology at the University of Alabama, will retire from active service at the close of the college year.

DR. KARL DALE SWARTZEL, since 1922 professor and head of the department of mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh, retired on June 14.

DR. JAMES G. HORSFALL, professor of plant pathology and chief of research at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., has been appointed head of the department of botany of the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven. He succeeds the late Dr. G. P. Clinton, who died in 1937 after completing thirty-five years in the service of the state.

DR. WALTER A. BLOEDORN, professor of medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine, has been appointed dean of the school to fill the vacancy that occurred when Dr. Earl B. McKinley was lost on the Hawaii Clipper in July, 1938.

DR. GEORGE P. MURDOCK, chairman of the department of anthropology of Yale University, has been promoted to a professorship of ethnology.

DR. TRACY M. SONNEBORN, of the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed associate professor of zoology at Indiana University.

DR. J. T. IRVING, head of the department of physiology of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, has been appointed to the chair of physiology in the University of Cape Town.

DR. JAMES P. SCHOOLEY, research associate in endocrinology at the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N. Y., has resigned to become director of endocrine research at Difeo Laboratories, Incorporated, Detroit.

DR. HERMAN N. BUNDESEN, who has been on a leave of absence since November, 1938, has returned to his work as health commissioner and president of the Board of Health of Chicago. Dr. Robert A. Black has been acting president of the board during his absence.

DR. H. P. SMITH, professor of pathology at the College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa, has received a grant of \$1,500 from the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation for further studies in blood coagulation and hemorrhagic diseases. This grant is in addition to one of \$10,000 previously awarded for studies in this field.

A REORGANIZATION of the editorial board of *The American Journal of Anatomy*, necessitated by the recent death of Dr. Charles R. Stockard, who was managing editor for seventeen years, has been completed. The appointment of Dr. George W. Corner, the University of Rochester, to be managing editor in succession to Dr. Stockard, has already been announced. Dr. George L. Streeter, the Carnegie Institution, Baltimore, who has been an associate editor for many years, will continue in that capacity. Dr. C. M. Jackson, the University of Minnesota, has asked to be released from editorial duties after eighteen years' service. The following have been appointed associate editors: Dr. Wayne J. Atwell, University of Buffalo; Dr. Sam L. Clark, Vanderbilt University; Dr. Harold Cummins, Tulane University, and Dr. George B. Wislocki, Harvard University.

At a symposium of invited papers on "Nuclear Fission," to be held by the American Physical Society at a regular meeting of the society on June 23 and 24, Dr. M. A. Tuve, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, speaks on "The Discussion of Experimental Information Regarding Fission Processes," and Professor John A. Wheeler, of Princeton University, speaks on "The Mechanism of the Nuclear Fission."

PROFESSOR W. L. AYRES, of the University of Michigan, gave two addresses on May 31 before the department of mathematics of Wayne University on "The Coloring of Maps" and on "Peano Spaces and Their Decomposition."

DR. JAMES ROWLAND ANGELL, educational counselor of the National Broadcasting Company, president emeritus of Yale University, was the commencement speaker on June 15 at the University of Buffalo.

AN exchange of visits has been arranged between the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft of Berlin and the Royal Society of London. As part of this arrangement Professor Baron von Verschuer, of Frankfurt, a.M., delivered on June 8 a lecture at the Royal Society entitled "Twin Research from Francis Galton to the Present Day," and on June 9 Professor Richard Kuhn, of Heidelberg, delivered a lecture on "Chemical Bases of the Biological Action of Light."

PLANS are being made for the perpetuation in an American Museum of Health of most of the exhibits in the Public Health and Medicine Building at the World's Fair. Dedication ceremonies of the new organization, which is supported by funds from philanthropic groups and insurance companies, were held in the Public Health and Medicine exhibit on June 17. The speakers included Mayor La Guardia, Surgeon General Thomas Parran, Dr. John L. Rice, city health commissioner, and Grover A. Whalen, president of the fair. Dr. Livingston Farrand, president emeritus of Cornell University, acted as chairman. A building to house the exhibits of the new museum has not yet been selected. Cooperation in obtaining a site for the museum has been promised by Mayor La Guardia, one of the directors. Other directors include Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Dr. George Baehr, Homer N. Calver, Dr. Farrand, Dr. David J. Kaliski, Sam A. Lewisohn, James Marshall, George McAneny, Dr. Seth Milliken, Frederick Osborn and Dr. Rice. Contributing to the support of the museum are the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Oberlaender Trust and eight insurance companies.

THE new building of the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City, was dedicated on May 15. Among the speakers at the ceremony were Dr. James Ewing, director of the hospital; Dr. J. G. Schurman, formerly president of Cornell University, later ambassador to Germany; Dr. S. S. Goldwater, commissioner of hospitals, New York City; Dr. William D. Coolidge, director of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company at Schenectady; Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, director of the National Cancer Council, and Dr. Burton T. Simpson, director of the New York State Institute for the Study of Malignant Diseases. Dr. James B.

Murphy, of the Rockefeller Institute, presided at the morning session, and Walter Douglas, chairman of the board of managers of the hospital, presided at the dedication ceremony. Mr. Robbins declared the institution officially opened and invited the guests to inspect the building. The cost of the new plant was approximately \$5,500,000. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gave the site. The principal donations for the construction were \$3,000,000 from the General Education Board and \$500,000 from Edward S. Harkness.

THE new Whitney Memorial Wing at the American Museum of Natural History, built at a cost of \$1,500,000 after ten years of planning and preparation, was dedicated on June 6 before a gathering of five hundred invited guests, including J. P. Morgan and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. The new building, which has eight stories and which will house a collection of 750,000 birds, is the joint gift of the late Harry Payne Whitney and of New York City. It contains three floors of public exhibits, including the Whitney Memorial Hall, the Hall of the Biology of Birds and the Gallery of Bird Art. Four floors house the large collection of specimens and on the top floor are the new laboratories designed for the study of living birds.

Museum News states that the North Central Washington Museum Association has been organized and incorporated at Wenatchee, Wash., and has obtained the use of the former city library for a museum. This building is being renovated through donated services and material. Enough exhibits are expected to be in place so that the museum can be opened this month. It will include art, history and science in its program. The organization of the association and the acquisition of the building are in large degree the result of efforts, beginning many years ago, on the part of the Colum-

bia River Archeological Society, of which Alan G. May is president. Officers of the Museum Association are K. P. Sexton, *president*; Mr. May, *vice-president*; A. V. Shephard, *secretary*, and Mrs. Gilbert Brown, *treasurer*.

THE Congress has been asked for a special appropriation for the Department of Commerce to finance a study of the fishery resources of the Hawaiian Islands as part of a plan for the development of the fisheries of the islands. The study would include a survey of available aquatic resources from which fisheries which now show signs of depletion could be restored. A preliminary report by the Bureau of Fisheries recommends that a survey be conducted to determine the species of fish which are available in the seas surrounding the islands.

THE New York Academy of Medicine announces the establishment of "The Robert Livingston Seaman Fund for the furtherance of research in bacteriology and sanitary science," with six hundred dollars available for assignment in 1939. This fund has been made possible by the terms of the will of the late Dr. Robert Livingston Seaman and will be administered by a committee of the Academy of Medicine under the following conditions and regulations: (1) The committee will receive applications from either institutions or individuals during the summer and up to September 15, 1939. Communications should be addressed to Dr. Wilson G. Smillie, chairman, 2 East 103rd Street, New York City. (2) The fund will be expended only in grants in aid for investigation or scholarships for research in bacteriology or sanitary science. The expenditures may be made for the securing of technical help; for aid in publishing original work and for the purchase of necessary books or apparatus.

DISCUSSION

THE DISCOVERY OF ANTARCTICA: A REPLY TO PROFESSOR R. N. RUDMOSE BROWN

IN the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* of May, 1939,¹ Dr. R. N. Rudmose Brown, the eminent British geographer, has reviewed my recent monograph² in an effort to impeach its accuracy and establish the British claim that Bransfield discovered the Antarctic continent.

In his article Brown has used terms so loosely and has misquoted me so generously that a full reply to all his statements would not be practicable within the compass of this article. I shall, therefore, content myself by whatever of reputation I may have for thor-

oughness of research and for a practice of resorting wherever possible to original source material. I shall hope that the more serious student of Antarctic history may be led to read my monograph as well as the British reviews of it.

In my investigation of this subject I started out determined to leave no stone unturned in order to get access to all available facts, let them strike where they would.³ The picture uncovered by my studies was not an attractive one and, as it happened, not one in which the British Admiralty or British geographers generally could take pride. It has been expected that such ex-

¹ *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 55: 3, 170-173; see also *Nature* of April 29, 1939.

² *Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.*, n. s., 31: pt. I, January, 1939, pp. 1-71, pls. I-XXXI, text maps 10.

³ Dr. Brown seems to have overlooked the fact that I have classed the American sealer, Benjamin Morrell, as a fake explorer. He did not, like Weddell, purloin a map or falsify one, but he did claim to have sailed into the Weddell Sea about half as far as Weddell's alleged cruise, and he has been generally discredited by British writers.