

DR. WILLIAM REGINALD MORSE, co-founder and dean for fifteen years of West China Union University Medical School at Chengtu, died in Boston on November 11 at the age of sixty-three years. For the last two years he had been working at Harvard University. Dr. Morse spent thirty years in West China, where he had been engaged in medical work and anthropological research.

DR. ROBERT MARSHALL, chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands of the U. S. Forest Service, died suddenly on November 11. He was thirty-eight years old.

WENDELL PHILLIPS HOGE, laboratory assistant and computer at the Mount Wilson Observatory, died on November 14 at the age of seventy-two years.

SIR WILLIAM J. POPE, for thirty-one years professor of chemistry at the University of Cambridge, died on October 17 at the age of sixty-nine years.

VASILY ROBERTOVICH WILLIAMS, of Moscow, a specialist in agronomy, died on November 11 at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. ARTHUR JOHN HOPKINS, professor of chemistry emeritus of Amherst College, died on November 10 at

the age of seventy-five years. A correspondent writes: "Professor Hopkins was born September 20, 1864, in Bridgewater, Mass., graduated from Amherst College in 1885, and took his Ph.D. under Morse at Johns Hopkins University in 1893. In 1894 he came back to Amherst, becoming full professor in 1907, in which position he served until his retirement in 1934. In 1895 he married Margaret Sutton Briscoe. He is survived by his wife and his daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Allen. Although he is credited with a number of contributions to the field of inorganic and analytic chemistry, in which he was always interested, Professor Hopkins was best known for his life-long study of the early history of the science. His 'color theory' of early alchemy has done much to clarify the obscurity of the Greek alchemical writings. In a series of articles in *Isis* and in his book, "Alchemy, the Child of Greek Philosophy," published by the Columbia University Press in 1934, he showed that the Alexandrian alchemists, believing that color was the chief property of metals, were trying to put into practice the philosophical ideas of Plato and the Gnostics. They were trying to push the baser metals along the road to 'improvement,' through a series of color changes which can be recognized as actual chemical processes, carried out with ingenious if primitive chemical apparatus."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR P. DEBYE, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics at Berlin-Dahlem, will be the George F. Baker non-resident lecturer in chemistry at Cornell University for four months, beginning with the second term of the academic year. He will discuss the determination of molecular structure by the method of interferences. The German Government has granted Dr. Debye leave of absence to accept the lectureship.

PROFESSOR THEODOR VON KÁRMÁN, director of the Daniel Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, will give the fifteenth Josiah Willard Gibbs Lecture of the American Mathematical Society. The title of the lecture is "The Engineer Grappling with Non-linear Problems." It will be given at the annual meeting of the society, which will be held at Columbus on December 28, 29 and 30 in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THOMAS H. CHILTON, director of the Technical Division of the engineering department of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Del., was presented with the Charles Frederick Chandler Medal at a ceremony held at Columbia University on November 7. The presentation was made by Dean Joseph Barker,

of the Columbia School of Engineering, which is celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding as the first School of Mines in the United States by Dr. Chandler and his associates in 1864. Following the presentation Mr. Chilton gave the annual Chandler lecture entitled "Engineering in the Service of Chemistry." Mr. Chilton is the seventeenth Chandler medalist. The medal was awarded to him for "the discovery and formulation of principles underlying the unit operations of chemical engineering, and in the application of these principles to process development, equipment design and chemical plant construction and operation."

THE medal of the Society of Chemical Industry was presented on November 10 to Dr. Robert E. Wilson, president of the Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company, at a meeting at New York City of the Chemists Club, sponsored by the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry and the New York Section of the American Chemical Society and the New York Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

DR. ARTHUR H. COMPTON, Charles H. Swift distinguished service professor at the University of Chicago, on November 8 was the guest of honor at a

dinner at St. Louis sponsored by several scientific and religious groups. Dean Alexander S. Langsdorf, of the Washington University School of Engineering and Architecture, presided. Following the dinner, Dr. Compton spoke at the Centenary Church.

DR. HUGH S. TAYLOR, David B. Jones professor of chemistry and chairman of the department of chemistry of Princeton University, was the guest of his associates and former graduate students at a dinner held on the evening of October 21, given in honor of "twenty-five years of distinguished service to chemistry at Princeton." Following the dinner he was presented in the name of former graduate students with a silver smoking set by Dr. W. N. Henderson, of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, New York. Dr. Taylor, in his response, surveyed the development of chemistry at Princeton in the last quarter century.

A MEETING was held at the St. Louis Medical Society on October 24 in honor of Dr. William Washington Graves, professor of neuropsychiatry at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. At this meeting Dr. Graves was awarded the certificate of merit and a gold medal for scientific accomplishment. The certificate reads: "In consideration of the usefulness of his classification of scapulae and other inherited characters, and of his discovery of 'The Age-Incidence Principle of Investigation,' both of which resulted in new approaches to the qualitative evaluation of inherited variations in relation to the inherited qualities of human constitution, expressed in inherited predisposition to health or disease, and in inherited capacity for education, for adaptability and for longevity." On only two occasions before this the St. Louis Medical Society has awarded this certificate of merit for scientific accomplishment. The first was given to Dr. Evarts A. Graham and his associates in 1927 for their work in cholecystography; the second to Dr. Edward A. Doisy in 1935, for his achievements in hormone chemistry and physiology.

DR. JOSEPH B. DE LEE, professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology of the School of Medicine of the Division of Biological Sciences, University of Chicago, observed his seventieth birthday on October 29 at a party planned to benefit the Chicago Maternity Center, which he founded. He was presented with cuff links forged from a pair of forceps that he used in his early days of practice.

THE Soviet Government has awarded the Order of Lenin to Dr. Vladimir Leontievitch Komarov, president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., in honor of his seventieth birthday and "in appreciation of his great services to science."

DR. SETON PRINGLE, surgeon to the Hospital of the

Royal City of Dublin and lately president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, has been elected president of the Irish Royal Academy of Medicine.

At the autumn meeting of the Virginia Chapter of Sigma Xi, the following officers were elected: *President*, Gordon T. Whyburn; *Vice-president*, James E. Kindred; *Secretary*, Joseph K. Roberts, and *Treasurer*, Lawrence R. Quarles. Dr. Jesse W. Beams, professor of physics at the University of Virginia, will be one of the lecturers this year. His subject will be "High Speed Centrifuging."

DR. DARIEL E. HOWELL has been appointed assistant professor of entomology at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College to take the place of Dr. L. E. Rozeboom, who resigned to become a member of the department of medical entomology at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Howell will have charge of investigations dealing with insect and tick transmission of bovine anaplasmosis, and will teach courses in medical entomology and pest control.

DR. JOHN C. HAFF, of the petrographic laboratory of the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, has been appointed assistant professor of geology at the Colorado School of Mines.

At the meeting of the Board of Scientific Directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, held on October 28, Professor Warfield T. Longcope, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, was elected president of the board to succeed Dr. Charles R. Stockard, who died on April 7 of the present year. Professor Ross G. Harrison, of the Osborn Zoological Laboratory, Yale University, was elected a member of the Board of Scientific Directors of the Institute.

PROFESSOR EDMUND W. SINNOTT, professor of botany at Barnard College, Columbia University, has been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of *Biological Abstracts*. Members of the editorial board have been elected as follows: Dr. Robert S. Breed, Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., "Dairy Bacteriology"; Professor Adriance S. Foster, University of California, "Morphology and Anatomy of Vascular Plants"; Dr. A. G. Karlson, University of Minnesota, associate editor, "Infectious and Other Diseases of Lower Animals"; Dr. Josef N. Knull, the Ohio State University, "Coleoptera"; Professor Gilbert M. Smith, Stanford University, "Algae"; and Robert G. Stone, Blue Hill Observatory of Harvard University, "Biometeorology and Bioclimatology."

DR. LOUIS B. BISHOP, of Pasadena, Calif., has been given an honorary appointment on the staff of Field Museum of Natural History as research associate in the division of birds. Dr. Bishop was responsible for the assemblage of one of the largest and most impor-

tant collections of North American birds. It is known as "the Bishop collection" and was recently acquired for addition to the department of zoology. More than 50,000 specimens, representing nearly every known form of bird found in North America, are included.

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made a grant to Robert R. Sealock, of the University of Rochester, to continue his investigations on the relationship of ascorbic acid to the metabolism of the melanin pigment precursors.

DR. HUGH S. CUMMING, formerly surgeon-general of the U. S. Public Health Service, sailed for Europe on November 11. He will attend a meeting of the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

DR. OSCAR RIDDLE, of the Research Staff of Carnegie Institution Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., gave an address before the Massachusetts State Chapter of Sigma Xi at Amherst on the evening of November 15 on "Our Uncontrollable Governor—the Pituitary Gland."

DR. ROBERT MEYER, formerly director of the Pathological Institute (Gynecological Clinic) and honorary professor of the Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Berlin, will give on December 6 and 7 the Charles Sumner Bacon lectures of the University of Illinois for 1939-1940 in the Medical and Dental College Laboratories Building at Chicago. The titles of the lectures are: "The Basis of the Histological Diagnosis of Carcinoma" and "Diagnosis of Early Carcinoma of the Cervix."

PROFESSOR K. K. LANDES, chairman of the department of geology of the University of Kansas, recently presented a series of three exchange lectures at the University of Cincinnati. The titles of the lectures were: "Pegmatites," "Igneous Rocks of the Mississippi Valley" and "Volcanic Ash in the Western United States." A fourth lecture, on a geologic exploring trip in Alaska, was given before the Cincinnati chapter of Sigma Xi. Professor N. M. Fenneman, of Cincinnati, had previously given a series of lectures on physiographic topics at the University of Kansas.

AT the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago at the Congress Hotel on December 5, Dr. Arthur H. Curtis, professor and chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University Medical School, will deliver the presidential address on "Some New Features of Gynecological Anatomy and Related Clinical Problems."

THE two hundred and thirtieth regular meeting of the American Physical Society will be held in Chicago on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2.

THE University of North Carolina on Monday,

December 4, will celebrate the opening of the new Medical Laboratories Building as part of its general Sesqui-Centennial Celebration. The exercises will consist in the morning of an address by Professor E. K. Marshall, Jr., of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, on "Medical Research: the Story of Sulfanilamide." In the afternoon Dr. David Riesman, professor emeritus of clinical medicine and professor of the history of medicine, the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, will make an address entitled "The Making of a Clinician," and Dr. G. Canby Robinson, lecturer in medicine and director of the Medical Clinic of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, will speak on "The Application of Medical Science to the Individual." An informal tea in conjunction with the inspection of the medical laboratories and the medical dormitory will be held in the Charles E. Kistler Memorial Library of the Medical School. In the evening Dr. Frank G. Boudreau, executive director of the Milbank Memorial Foundation, will speak at a dinner gathering on "New Health Frontiers." Greetings will be brought to the university and to the Medical School by various alumni and friends.

It is announced that requests to the National Research Council Committee for Research in Endocrinology for aid during the fiscal period from September 1, 1940, to June 30, 1941, will be received until February 29. Application blanks may be obtained by addressing the Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. In addition to a statement of the problem and research plan or program, the committee desires information regarding the proposed method of attack, the institutional support of the investigation and the uses to be made of the sum requested. No part of any grant may be used by the recipient institution for administrative expenses. Applications for aid of endocrine research on problems of sex in the narrower sense can not be given favorable consideration, but the committee will consider the support of studies on the effects of sex hormones on non-sexual functions—*e.g.*, on metabolism.

DR. STEPHEN DUGGAN, director of the Institute of International Education, has been forced to cancel for the duration of the war all student exchanges between the United States and Europe. The institute had expected to send four hundred American students abroad on fellowships. Three hundred of these have been cancelled, since they were for European universities, but the remainder, involving Latin America, Canada and the Far East, have not been affected.

OVER two hundred courses in clinical medicine for practicing physicians are being given by the Columbia University School of Medicine at metropolitan hospitals affiliated with the school during the academic

year 1939-40. These are designed for continuation training and advanced experience in the clinical fields of medicine, and are divided into separate sections for general practitioners and for specialists. The hospitals affiliated with the School of Medicine are as follows: Bellevue; Hospital for Joint Diseases; Institute

of Ophthalmology; Lenox Hill; Montefiore; Mount Sinai; Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital; Neurological Institute; New York Post-Graduate Medical School; New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital; Presbyterian Hospital; St. Luke's; Welfare Hospital for Chronic Diseases, and Woman's Hospital.

DISCUSSION

THE FOUNDING OF A DEPARTMENT OF FISHES IN THE MUSEO POEY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA

FELIPE POEY (1799-1891) was Cuba's greatest naturalist. He was made professor of natural history in the University of Havana in 1830, and in 1839 he was appointed director of the museum in the university. He published rather widely on Cuban natural history, but he is best known by reason of his excellent work on Cuban fishes. His first ichthyological contribution appeared in 1851 and his last in 1883. In the space of these thirty-two years his publications on fishes number nineteen, and of these five were stout volumes. These volumes were issued in fascicles or parts as they were finished and were then gathered into volumes with inclusive titles. If these individual parts could be counted, they would probably treble the number of Poey's separate contributions. Only by thumbing through his works could the total number of fishes described by him be ascertained. But it is said that he described *de novo* more than 230 species.

Since Poey's day the study of Cuban fishes has been carried on intermittently by various investigators from various countries. These studies have consisted mainly of descriptions of one or a few species or at best of small collections. Now, however, plans are on foot for extensive and far-reaching studies, which will recall the days of Felipe Poey. His work is to be taken up and continued by a man who has already written extensively on Cuban fishes and who bids fair to be a worthy successor of Poey.

The Museum of Zoology (Museo Poey) of the University of Havana has recently established a department of fishes for the study and preservation of the fishes of the West Indian fauna, and particularly those of the Cuban waters.

The organization and establishment of this department are due to the initiative and activities of Dr. Luis Howell Rivero, professor in the faculty of science. Dr. Rivero was for two years (1934-1936) a fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation doing research work on West Indian fishes at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College and at the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan. He has had the cooperation of his colleague, Dr. Carlos G. Aguayo (also a former Guggenheim fellow), and of Dr. José

M. Cadenas, rector of the University of Havana, who has provided the necessary appropriation for the maintenance of the department.

The first great collections for the establishment of this department are the following accessions:

Fishes obtained by the "Tomas Barrera Expedition" in 1914, under the direction of Dr. Carlos de la Torre, from the University of Havana and of Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the U. S. National Museum.

Fishes obtained by Dr. Rivero in Jamaica in the spring of 1937, during a survey of the fishes of Jamaica done under the auspices of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., the Department of Science and Agriculture of Jamaica and the University of Havana.

Fishes obtained by the "Harvard-Havana Expedition" in the spring of 1938, and by the second expedition, March to May, 1939, under the auspices of Harvard University and the University of Havana, undertaken on board the research vessel *Atlantis*.

Besides, there are several small local collections made by Dr. Rivero, Dr. Aguayo and others, as well as many donations which have been made to the museum.

At the present moment and taking into consideration its very early stage, the department of fishes has over 50 per cent. of the species of the known Cuban fauna represented in its collections, and now that this department is prepared adequately to care for specimens, it is confidently expected that much valuable material will be presented to the Museo.

In this new department of the university, courses of lectures and laboratory work will be given by Dr. Rivero, its founder. In addition opportunities will be afforded graduate students to do research work on fishes under Dr. Rivero's immediate direction. Thus the Museo Poey of the University of Havana may be expected to become the center of work on the West Indian ichthyological fauna.

CORRESPONDENT

A NOTEWORTHY AURORA

ON the night of August 1, 1937, there occurred an extremely spectacular display of the aurora borealis, visible, no doubt, in many of our northern states and in Canada. I watched it from the Musselshell Valley of central Montana, where I write this, and was so