

to be awarded to suitable candidates desiring to enter the Royal School of Mines. Provision has also been made for two, and possibly for more, scholarships for students taking an honors course in oil technology.

The Appointments Board of the Imperial College, in an appendix to the report, states that the year was a record one for the employment of college-trained graduates. Of the 247 on the register of the board only 11 were unemployed at the end of the year, and unemployment had never been so low. A remarkable feature was the persistently small number of candidates from the Royal School of Mines during the past few years; as was the case last year, there had been very many more demands for men trained in mining, metallurgy, oil, etc., than could be met.

The total number of students during the year was 1,143, made up of 530 at the Royal College of Science, 123 at the Royal School of Mines, and 490 at the City and Guilds College.

In a review of research development during the year it is reported that the Rockefeller Foundation has made an appropriation of a sum not exceeding £12,000 for researches on vitamins, sterols and related compounds, under the direction of the professor of organic chemistry, during the seven years to September 30, 1945. New subjects of research being investigated with the assistance of outside bodies included infestation of stored grain and grain products by insects, wear problems, investigation of thin carcinogenic films, combustion characteristics of coal dust and diseases of spring lettuce.

LECTURES TO THE LAITY OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

THE Fifth Series of Lectures to the Laity sponsored by the New York Academy of Medicine opened on Thursday, November 30, with an address entitled "The Inheritance of Mental Disease" by Dr. Abraham Myerson, clinical professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School. The presiding chairman was Dr. Malcolm Goodridge, president of the academy.

The lectures are given on Thursdays at 8:15 P.M. in the building of the academy at 2 East 103rd Street. Subsequent lectures will be as follows:

December 28. The Ascent from Bedlam, Richard H. Hutchings, M.D., professor of clinical psychiatry, emeritus, Syracuse University Medical College. "The remarkable growth of the mental hospital. Is mental disease increasing? New standards for mental health." *Presiding chairman*, A. A. Brill, M.D.

January 25. The Story of our Knowledge of the Blood, Paul Reznikoff, M.D., assistant professor of clinical medicine, Cornell University Medical College. "Blood has had a fascinating importance for humans since ancient times. The invention of the microscope, and modern knowledge of blood. The great medical significance of the

recent hematological discoveries." *Presiding chairman*, Lloyd F. Craver, M.D.

February 29. The Romance of Bronchoscopy. Chevalier Jackson, M.D., and Chevalier L. Jackson, M.D., professors of broncho-esophagology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia. "The bronchoscope, what it is, how it is used and what is seen through it will be demonstrated by lantern slides and motion pictures." *Presiding chairman*, Charles F. Tenney, M.D.

March 28. The Story of the Viruses, Thomas M. Rivers, M.D., director, the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. "The development of knowledge of viruses; an historical review, and an evaluation of that knowledge in relation to certain other biological facts." *Presiding chairman*, Wilbur A. Sawyer, M.D.

April 25. Chemical Warfare against Disease, Perlin H. Long, M.D., associate professor of medicine, the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. "It has been the hope of physicians for many years that chemical compounds would be available which would cure bacterial infections. Since the introduction of Prontosil, remarkable strides have been made in the treatment of bacterial infections with sulfanilamide or its derivatives. It now appears as though within time the majority of infectious diseases may be conquered by chemical products." *Presiding chairman*, William S. Ladd, M.D.

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE Board of Trustees of *Biological Abstracts* is conscious of their great responsibility in maintaining an abstracting service available to all biologists, and it has been a matter of great concern that the cost has been so high that the benefits of this service have been largely lost to those who feel that they can not afford to subscribe. Unfortunately the editorial costs of preparing such a service are great, and it is apparent that the only possibility of decreasing the cost to the individual lies in securing a great increase in subscriptions.

For a long time it has been felt that some plan should be formulated that would more actively stimulate the interest and support of members of the several biological societies. In the hope that this plan will provide a greater service to biologists generally the trustees have approved the following: A reduction of \$1.00 in the subscription price to any section, or sections, of *Biological Abstracts* will be granted the membership of any society *provided* that:

(1) They receive subscription pledges from at least 30 per cent. of their membership.

(2) It is understood that section subscriptions will be non-duplicating, *i.e.*, in cases where individuals are members of several societies, they will have the right to designate the society to which their section subscriptions will be credited.

(3) It is also understood that, in the case of an individual subscribing to *more than one section*, he may designate the appropriate societies to which each section subscription will be credited.

It is further understood that this plan does not supersede existing plans for support, such as direct subsidy of \$2.00 a member by the American Society of Zoologists, but that it may be supplementary to such plans. As a further aid to individual biologists the costs of sectional subscriptions have been reduced in some cases.

It is hoped that many societies will take advantage of the opportunity to render this greater service to their membership. It is requested that a committee of interested members be appointed by each biological society to handle the matter. Further information on this plan, or a sample copy of a section, may be secured by addressing the Business Manager, *Biological Abstracts*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE annual meeting of the Council of the Union of American Biological Societies will be held in the Colonial Room of the Neil House, Columbus, at 4:00 P.M. on the afternoon of Thursday, December 28, 1939. It is hoped that all representatives to the council will make a special effort to attend this meeting, since matters of more than ordinary interest will come up for consideration.

There will be a brief report by the editor-in-chief of *Biological Abstracts*, Dr. John E. Flynn. This will include a summary of the financial situation, the effect of the war and plans for Volume 14 (1940).

Dr. Riddle, as chairman of the Union's Committee on Biological Science Teaching, reports that the committee has continued its efforts to enroll greater numbers of high-school teachers in the National Association of Biology Teachers, which this committee sponsored and founded last year. In various ways individual members of the committee, as well as Dr. D. V. Miller, committee representative, have supported the new journal—*The American Biology Teacher*. Professor E. W. Sinnott became a member of this committee in July of this year, other members being Drs. E. V. Cowdry, F. L. Fitzpatrick, H. B. Glass and B. C. Gruenberg. During recent months the committee has given much care to the preparation of a questionnaire dealing with conditions affecting the teaching of biology in our secondary schools. This questionnaire was mailed in late November and early December to nearly 15,000 high-school teachers in 48 states. The results of this inquiry will guide and determine the committee's future efforts. The

work of this year, like that of 1938, was financed through funds made available by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

It is also planned to consider an amendment to the constitution of the union which will make possible a second type of membership, namely, "individual membership." It is hoped that the representatives of the various member societies will be prepared to consider this matter carefully.

GEORGE W. HUNTER, III,
Secretary

AWARD OF THE PENROSE MEDAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BERRYMAN SCOTT, of Princeton University, has been named by the Council of The Geological Society of America as the Penrose Medalist for 1939. The gold medal will be presented on December 29 at the fifty-second annual meeting of the society at Minneapolis.

The Penrose Medal was established in 1927 for the Geological Society by the late Dr. R. A. F. Penrose, to be awarded, under the terms of the deed of gift, "in recognition of eminent research in pure geology" and "of outstanding original contribution or achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

Professor Scott is the eleventh geologist to receive this medal. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1855 and now retired from active teaching, he was for fifty years Blair professor of geology and vertebrate paleontology at Princeton University. In the words of the Committee on Penrose Medal Award of the Geological Society,

he is generally regarded as the leading American student of the Tertiary mammal faunas of the western hemisphere, with particular reference to their historical development and migrations. A familiarity with these problems led him also to a fruitful study of the principles of evolution. His many years of exploration of the Tertiary deposits in western United States and collaboration with Hatcher and others in Patagonia have resulted in more than fifty monographs as well as several comprehensive books. His wide range of interests is also indicated by his authorship of an excellent general text-book of geology.

The importance and quality of his scientific attainments have been recognized by the award of honorary degrees from the Universities of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Oxford and Princeton, by medals from the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, the Geological Society of London, the National Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and by his election to the presidencies of the Paleontological Society, the American Philosophical Society and the Geological Society of America.

In nominating Professor Scott as Penrose Medalist for 1939 the committee on the Penrose Medal Award stated that "The award of the Penrose Medal to Pro-