

(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-

fessor Scott at this time is recommended because of the distinguished place he has won for himself in the science of paleontology and its related fields of organic evolution and historical geology." The committee included Professors Eliot Blackwelder, Stanford University, *chairman*; E. L. Bruce, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario; John P. Buwalda, California Institute of Technology; James Gilluly, University of California at Los Angeles; Adolph Knopf, Yale University; Donald H. McLaughlin, Harvard University, and Dr. W. P. Woodring, United States Geological Survey.

Previous recipients of the Penrose Medal are: 1927, Professor Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, University

of Chicago; 1928, Dr. Jakob Johannes Sederholm, director of the Geological Survey of Finland; 1930, Professor Francois Alfred Antoine Lacroix, director of the Mineralogical Laboratory of the Museum of Natural History of Paris; 1931, Professor William Morris Davis, Harvard University; 1932, Dr. Edward Oscar Ulrich, United States Geological Survey; 1933, Professor Waldemar Lindgren, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 1934, Professor Charles Schuchert, Yale University; 1935, Professor Reginald Aldworth Daly, Harvard University; 1936, Dr. Arthur Philemon Coleman, University of Toronto, and 1938, Professor Andrew Cowper Lawson, University of California.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Hughes Medal of the Royal Society, London, has been awarded to Dr. G. P. Thomson, professor of physics at the Imperial College of Science, London, for his "important discoveries in connection with the diffraction of electrons by matter." Professor Thomson is the son of Sir J. J. Thomson.

THE Sigma Xi lecture at the Columbus meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be given by Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, professor of geology at Harvard University, on Thursday, December 28. He will speak on "The Future of Man as an Inhabitant of the Earth." In honor of Dr. Mather, the society has arranged a dinner preceding the lecture. Dr. George A. Baitsell, president of the society, will preside.

IN honor of Robert J. Moore, development manager of the Varnish and Resin Division of the Bakelite Corporation, a dinner was given at a recent meeting of the American Institute of Chemists. The speakers were Dr. Marston T. Bogert, Dr. Robert Calvert, Dr. W. T. Read, Dr. F. D. Snell and Dr. Maximilian Toch.

DR. OLIVER E. BUCKLEY, executive vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City, with which he has been associated since 1925, has been elected president to the Engineering Foundation to succeed the late Professor George E. Beggs. F. F. Colcord, vice-president of the United States Smelting Company, has been made vice-chairman of the foundation; Kenneth H. Condit has become chairman of the research procedure committee, and E. M. T. Ryder a member of that committee. Professor Walter I. Slichter, of Columbia University, has been elected a member of the executive committee.

DR. W. H. PIERRE, head of the department of agronomy at the Iowa State College, was elected president of the Soil Science Society of America at the New

Orleans meeting. During the past year he was secretary of the society.

OFFICERS for 1940 of the Mineralogical Society, London, have been elected as follows: *President*, Arthur Russell; *Vice-presidents*, Professor C. E. Tilley, Dr. W. Campbell Smith; *Treasurer*, F. N. Ashcroft; *General Secretary*, Dr. G. F. Claringbull; *Foreign Secretary*, Sir Thomas H. Holland; *Editor of the Journal*, Dr. L. J. Spencer.

DR. HENRY W. HOLMES has retired as dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He will continue his work as professor of education and has become chairman of the newly established University Committee on Educational Relations. Dr. Francis T. Spaulding succeeds him as dean of the school.

FREDERICK M. FEIKER, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council and a former director of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has been named dean of the School of Engineering of the George Washington University.

D. W. MACCORQUODALE, formerly assistant professor of biochemistry at the School of Medicine of St. Louis University, has joined the research staff of the Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Ill., where he is in charge of hormone research.

RAYMOND P. SLOAN, vice-president of the Modern Hospital Publishing Company, Inc., associate editor of *Modern Hospital* and managing editor of *The Nation's Schools*, has been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Long Island College of Medicine.

DR. WILLIAM F. TALBOT, who in June joined the staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc., chemists and engineers of Cambridge, Mass., for the purpose of carrying out studies for the General Printing Ink Corporation, has recently been made research director of this company.