SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR OLIVER LODGE, who was from 1881 to 1900 professor of physics and mathematics at University College, Liverpool, and from 1900 to 1919 principal of Birmingham University, died on August 22 at the age of eighty-nine years.

DR. PHILIP FOX has been requested to resign from the directorship of the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, by the newly elected president, Lenox R. Lohr. As has already been recorded in SCIENCE, the first action of Mr. Lohr was the summary dismissal of nine of twelve members of the staff, including five of nine curators and others in key positions.

DR. CHARLES PACKARD, of the Institute of Cancer Research at Columbia University, was appointed director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole at the annual meeting of its Board of Trustees. He had been associate director since 1938, and previously had served as clerk of the corporation for seven years. At the corporation meeting, Drs. C. W. Metz, Harold H. Plough and Dugald E. S. Brown were elected members of the Board of Trustees.

THE degree of doctor of engineering was conferred on the occasion of the commencement exercises of the South Dakota School of Mines and of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology on John Van Nostrand Dorr, consulting metallurgist, president of the Dorr Company, Inc., of New York City, "in recognition of his contributions to chemical, metallurgical and sanitary engineering practices." Mr. Dorr gave the commencement address at both institutions.

THERE was recently unveiled in the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory a bronze tablet that reads in part: "A tribute to William Flowers Hand, scientist, whose unselfish service, tireless energy and devotion to the education of youth of Mississippi and whose distinguished activities as State Chemist merit the naming of this building in his honor." In taking this action the Board of Trustees said that they were grateful "for the fine work that Dr. Hand had done, was doing and would do in the future for the State of Mississippi." Dr. Hand has been professor of chemistry and state chemist for forty years, dean of science for twenty-five years and vice-president of Mississippi State College for six years.

DR. L. J. H. TEAKLE, of the Department of Agriculture, Perth, Australia, has recently been elected a fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the National Research Council.

H. W. SWANN has accepted the invitation of the Executive Council of the British Association of Supervising Electrical Engineers to continue as president of the association for a further year.

DR. DONALD PRICE, technical director of the Organic Research Laboratories for the National Oil Products Company of Harrison, N. J., was elected chairman for 1940–41 of the New York Metropolitan Microchemical Society at the ninth regular meeting at Fordham University. Dr. Price succeeds Dr. Alexander Knoll, of Columbia University.

DR. D. J. STRUIK, associate professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been promoted to a professorship.

DR. RALPH ORLANDO FREELAND, of the department of plant physiology of the Ohio State University since 1931, becomes associate professor of botany at Northwestern University on September 1.

DR. HUBERT R. HATHAWAY, of the General Hospital of the University of Wisconsin, an expert on anesthesia, has joined the staff of the Medical School of the University of California in San Francisco.

DR. EARL C. GILBERT, professor of chemistry at the Oregon State College at Corvallis, has been made acting head of the department.

DR. T. SLATER PRICE has retired from the professorship of chemistry at the Heriot-Watt Technical College, Edinburgh.

DR. HANS O. HATERIUS, Wayne University College of Medicine, has been appointed editor of the section on Endocrinology in *Biological Abstracts*. The journal *Endocrinology* will devote the abstract sections of future issues to reporting advances in the field of clinical endocrinology. *Biological Abstracts* will carry abstracts of experimental endocrinology.

DR. JOHN E. PERRY, professor of civil engineering at Cornell University, is again this summer director of Camp Barton, conducted by the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Council, Boy Scouts, on the west shore of Cayuga Lake. This is his fifth season as director.

FOLLOWING the nomination of Secretary Henry A. Wallace for vice-president of the United States on the Democratic ticket, Claude R. Wickard, under-secretary of agriculture, has been named his successor, and Paul H. Appleby, assistant to Mr. Wallace since 1933, has been named under-secretary.

DR. FRANK N. FREEMAN, dean of the School of Education of the University of California, has become a member of the Problems and Plans Committee of the American Council on Education.

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made a grant to Dr.

Rucker Cleveland of the department of anatomy at Vanderbilt Medical School for further research in the field of endocrinology and reproduction.

DR. H. V. S. GRILLO, president of the National College of Agriculture of Brazil, sailed from New York for Rio de Janeiro on August 23. He had spent three months in the United States studying the organization of agricultural institutions.

DR. H. VICTOR NEHER and Dr. William Pickering, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have left Pasadena for an expedition to South Dakota, Oklahoma and Texas to make a further study of cosmic radiation.

A FIELD party headed by Richard K. Mellon, a member of the North American Hall committee of the American Museum of Natural History, left Pittsburgh on August 23 for an expedition to Alaska to collect additional material for the new Osborn Caribou Group now under construction. The party, which includes Mrs. Mellon, will charter a boat at Seattle, cruise along the inland passage along British Columbia and Alaska, and is expected to reach Seward, Alaska, about September 1, from which point the collection of material will commence. Robert H. Rockwell, of the museum staff, is accompanying the expedition as technical adviser. Mr. Rockwell will be principally concerned with gathering flora for the Caribou Group.

THE Glass Division of the American Ceramic Society will meet at Hershey, Pa., on September 6 and 7. There will be technical papers and reports on Friday and Saturday mornings. On Saturday afternoon a golf tournament and visits to points of interest in Hershey have been arranged. In the evening there will be a banquet followed by dancing at the Hershey Park Ballroom.

APPLICATIONS for the Lewis Cass Ledyard fellowship award of the Society of the New York Hospital close on September 15. The income from the fellowship, which was established in 1939, amounts to approximately $4,000, of which $1,000 will be used for supplies and expenses. Preference will be given to younger applicants, who are graduates in medicine and have demonstrated ability to carry on original research of a high order. Applications and correspondence should be addressed to The Committee of The Lewis Cass Ledyard, Jr. Fellowship, The Society of The New York Hospital, 525 East 68th Street, New York, N. Y.

A PLAN which will enable young Central American physicians to take special training at the Medical School of the University of California has been announced. According to the terms of the plan, two young graduate physicians who can speak English will be sent every year by each of the Central American nations for two years' special study in pre-clinical and clinical subjects under the guidance of an advisory committee. The committee, which will consist of Drs. Howard C. Naffziger, professor of surgery; Charles L. Connor, professor of pathology, and Ralph Soto-Hall, clinical instructor in orthopedic surgery, will assist each visiting physician in planning the type of special training which will be most valuable to him. No formal courses will be given. Countries sending representatives include Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

PRESIDENT WALLACE W. ATWOOD, of Clark University, in cooperation with the staff of the School of Geography, will conduct a graduate seminar during the coming academic year, taking as the special theme: Geography in National Defense. Provided that there is a registration of at least twenty men the School of Geography will offer a special course for undergraduate men, selecting from the various fields of geography those phases of the science that should be incorporated in the training of men who may wish to qualify as officers in the Army or Navy or to go into public service associated with the work of national defense. Certain phases of political geography may be introduced. The course will be evolved as the work proceeds and will be under the general direction of President Atwood.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that at a joint meeting of the trustees of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital and of Wake Forest College, on July 18, contracts were let for the new Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem and additions to the hospital amounting to $701,572. It is estimated that it will take a year to complete the buildings. The school will also have a fifty-bed hospital which has been leased to it by the Junior League of Winston-Salem for teaching and research in psychiatry. The school will assume responsibility for the professional conduct of the child guidance clinic conducted by the league.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association the Illinois State Health Department presented two new exhibits in its annual health exposition at the State Fair in Springfield from August 17 to 25 in cooperation with the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois. One depicted the hazards of night driving and the inability of the eye to cope with these hazards. Dioramas, transparencies, working models, apparatus, street and highway lighting units and the scientific equipment used in research on the subject were shown. The other exhibit showed 2,000 years of progress in the evolution of resuscita-

tion from drowning, gas asphyxiation and electric shock. Dr. Hart E. Fisher, Chicago, chief surgeon of the public service company, was in charge. Other features of the exposition were free blood tests, medical examination of children, exhibits on "contact" diseases and nutrition. A motion picture program was presented daily.

IN the British Parliament Sir Thomas Moore recently asked the Minister of Supply whether he could give an assurance that in the limitation of paper supplies due regard would be had for the relative importance of various publications, and that reasonable preference would be given to the requirements of those publishing educational, scientific and technical journals and books. Mr. Harold Macmillan, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Supply, replied: "While the Minister can not accept the responsibility for introducing in the allocation of the limited supplies of paper anything which might savor of a censorship, due regard will be had to the provision of reasonable amounts of paper for educational, scientific and technical publications."

ACCORDING to the London *Times* a new government technical school at Takoradi, West Africa, built on 30 acres of grounds at a cost of £37,000 has been opened. The school had to be removed from Accra, partly because the accommodation there was inadequate to meet the growing demand for technical training, partly because the new site is more accessible for the industrialized areas of the Gold Coast. The school overlooks Takoradi harbor and includes a long, single-story workshop with blacksmith's shop, a demonstration block of three stories, with classrooms, laboratories, drawing offices and assembly hall. Over 100 students can be housed in the dormitory block. The workshop provides for instruction in two sections: one for practical work in mechanical engineering, the other for practical woodwork. Both sections are fitted with electrically driven machinery and the usual benches for manual work. Two blocks contain quarters for African masters, and there is a bungalow for a European housemaster. The buildings are grouped around a sports ground of five acres. Most classrooms and the assembly hall are wired for reception of wireless programs from the Sekondi station. Present students include boys from all parts of the Gold Coast.

DISCUSSION

A STANDARD EXPERIMENTAL VEGETATION TYPE

THE increasing interest in land with its attendant problems of animal and plant ecology is emphasizing the long-felt need for outdoor and laboratory facilities "where the interactions of land plants and animals and their physiological relations to climate can be studied."[1] In an integrated investigation of this or a related nature, one of the essential parts would be an area sufficiently protected to permit development of the vegetation so as to form a standard and at the same time afford an experiment in itself.

The purpose of adequately protecting a plant cover over a long period can be stated as: What can the two, soil and climate, produce, given certain species of plants, if productivity is not upset by removal of vegetation? We can only guess at the outcome. What will the product be in a definite period of 5, 10 or 15 years or in an indefinitely long period of over 100 years and more? Will development proceed far beyond what we conceive of as the climax for the region? Will it be a more or a less desirable type than the accepted climax, either as forage or as a protective cover for the soil? How will it compare with areas continuously grazed by livestock for the same period and how will it compare with the vegetation on portions of such an area as mentioned by Shelford—"large enough to prevent domestication of plains animals and to be managed on a hands-off basis"?

Without proper protection outdoor studies dealing with the development of vegetation or with competition between plants may be upset at a crucial moment by the destruction of vegetation through one or another of many agencies. Plowing, fire, roadway construction, excessive grazing by livestock and the feeding of rodents or of insects such as grasshoppers or Mormon crickets, all take toll of plots situated in the open ranges and only by chance can a plot be expected to survive intact for long. Elimination of one or a few of the agencies, such as fencing to keep out large animals, may temporarily reduce the destruction of vegetation but it is no dependable solution. The accumulation of plant material on an area surrounded by land where such material is scarce is a stimulus for concentrations or for multiplication of the uncontrolled smaller animals. The resulting damage to the vegetation may be obscure and lead to erroneous conclusions. Sometimes the damage is pronounced. In two 40-acre experimental tracts[2] where fire and grazing had been prevented, jackrabbits suppressed an annual grass in the one, and in the other reduced a sparse vegetation to bare soil.

[1] V. E. Shelford, SCIENCE, 90: 2346, December 15, 1939.

[2] R. L. Piemeisel, U. S. Dept. Agric. Tech. Bull. 654, 1938; also unpublished data.