

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians was presented to Dr. William de B. MacNider, Kenan research professor of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina, at the meeting of the association in Atlantic City, which was held on May 6 and 7.

DR. ANSON MARSTON, dean emeritus of the Engineering Division of the Iowa State College, has been awarded the Lamme Gold Medal of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. The presentation will be made at the annual dinner of the society on June 26 during the Ann Arbor meeting.

THE Mendel Medal of Villanova College, "given annually for outstanding achievement in science," has been presented to Dr. Eugene M. K. Geiling, professor of pharmacology at the University of Chicago, "for his contributions to the knowledge of the pituitary gland, its relation to other glands and for his assistance in the crystallization of insulin."

THE American Library Association, through its special committee, has awarded the Oberly Memorial Prize for 1940-41 to Dr. E. D. Merrill, of the Arnold Arboretum, and E. H. Walker, of the Smithsonian Institution, for their "Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany," as the outstanding bibliography for the period. Awards are made once in two years, the field being limited to agriculture and the natural sciences. The Eunice Rockwood Oberly Memorial Fund of the American Library Association was established in 1924.

THE eighteenth annual Colloid Symposium has been designated "The Wilder D. Bancroft Colloid Symposium," in honor of Dr. Bancroft, emeritus professor of chemistry at Cornell University, distinguished for his work on colloid chemical phenomena. The meeting will be held at the university on June 19, 20 and 21. A lecture by Dr. Bancroft will be given entitled "Thirty Years of Colloid Chemistry." The symposium will be divided into four sections: Surface Chemistry, Inorganic Colloids, Organocolloids and Protein Chemistry.

THE Albert H. Ketchum Memorial Award for 1941 of the American Association of Orthodontists was presented on May 8 at the closing session of the fortieth annual meeting held in New York City, to Dr. Frederick B. Noyes, dean emeritus of the College of Dentistry of the University of Illinois.

FORMER students of Dr. Ernst Julius Berg, dean of engineering at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., gave on May 17 a dinner in his honor to celebrate his long service to the college with which he became associated in 1913 as professor of electrical engineering.

A portrait of Dr. Berg, painted by John C. Johansen, was presented by Ralph Henry Tapscott, president of the Consolidated Edison Company of New York. President Dixon Ryan Fox accepted the portrait for the college.

THE degree of doctor of science will be conferred at the ninety-first commencement exercises on June 16 of the University of Rochester on Dr. Warfield T. Longcope, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University; on Dr. George Washington Carver, of the Tuskegee Institute, and on Dr. René Jules Dubos, associate of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

OFFICERS of the American Institute of Nutrition were elected as follows at the recent meeting in Chicago: *President*, Dr. Albert G. Hogan, professor of animal husbandry and chairman of the department of agricultural chemistry at the University of Missouri; *Vice-president*, Dr. Leonard A. Maynard, professor of animal nutrition and director of the U. S. Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory at Cornell University; *Secretary*, Dr. Arthur H. Smith, head of the department of physiological chemistry at the College of Medicine of Wayne University, Detroit; *Treasurer*, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, of the National Institute of Health of the U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.; *Councillors*, Dr. Thomas H. Jukes, instructor in poultry husbandry at the University of California, Davis; Dr. Lydia J. Roberts, professor and chairman of the department of home economics at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Howard B. Lewis, professor of biological chemistry at the Medical School of the University of Michigan.

DR. GEORGE M. GUEST, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati and fellow of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, has been elected president of the Society for Pediatric Research.

DR. LEO JOSEPH LASSALLE, dean of the College of Engineering of the Louisiana State University, has been elected president of the Southeastern Section of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

AT a meeting in Richmond, Va., on May 5, of the American branch of the International League against Epilepsy the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. H. Houston Merritt, Boston; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. David C. Wilson, of the University of Virginia, and Dr. Milton Rosenbaum, Cincinnati; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. F. A. Gibbs, Boston. Dr. Adolf Meyer, of Baltimore, was elected vice-president for America for the International League.

DR. PHILIP G. JOHNSON, of the department of edu-

cation of Cornell University, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the New York State Science Teachers' Association and chairman of its research committee.

DR. EDGAR O. LOVETT, first president of the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, previously professor of astronomy at Princeton University, on attaining the age of seventy years, has resigned from the office to which he was called in the autumn of 1907. When the trustees of the institute shall have selected his successor, Dr. Lovett will become president emeritus. He will retain his membership on the self-perpetuating board of seven trustees to which he was elected in 1910. The Rice Institute was opened for the reception of students in the autumn of 1912.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK W. HEHRE, of the School of Engineering of Columbia University, has been appointed head of the department of electrical engineering.

DR. WEBSTER N. JONES, director of engineering of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, has been appointed a member of the Pennsylvania State Council on Defense.

HENRY N. OGDEN, professor of engineering, emeritus, at Cornell University, has been reappointed by Governor Lehman to a six-year term on the New York State Public Health Council.

DR. LEON BRILLOUIN, of the Collège de France, who is in residence this spring and summer at the University of Wisconsin as visiting professor of physics, is now giving until June 7 a course of lectures on elastic and electromagnetic wave propagation in crystals. From June 30 to August 8, he will offer in addition to quantum mechanics a course on short radio waves. Professor Brillouin was recently director of the French Broadcasting System.

DR. ARUNDELL J. K. ESDAILE, formerly secretary of the British Museum Library and lecturer in bibliography at the London University School of Librarianship, expects to visit the United States in the autumn. Since the outbreak of the war he has been in charge of microfilming documents at the British Museum, a project of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Library of Congress.

DR. EDWARD ELLERY, national president of Sigma Xi, returned recently from a ten-day visit to the University of Hawaii, during which he gave addresses on scientific subjects to a number of groups. Among these were an address on "Scientific Discovery and the Scientific Method," given to science students of the university, and a public address on "Science and Social Unrest." On April 4 he addressed the regular spring meeting of the Sigma Xi Club of Hawaii on "Facts

and Fancy in Science." Dr. Ellery's visit was co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii and the Sigma Xi Club of Hawaii.

DR. FRANK A. GELDARD, professor of psychology in the University of Virginia, delivered the annual Sigma Xi lecture at the Carnegie Institute of Technology on May 10. The subject of his address was "Explanation in Science."

DR. ROBERT B. LINDSAY, chairman of the department of physics of Brown University, delivered the annual address to the Sigma Xi Club of the University of Maine on April 2. The subject of his lecture was "The Impact of Science on Civilization."

DR. D. E. MINNICH, chairman of the department of zoology of the University of Minnesota, addressed on May 2 a joint meeting of the South Dakota Academy of Science and the Academy of Social Sciences. The address was entitled "Human Reproduction in Relation to Social Progress." It was given at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D.

DR. FRANKLIN C. McLEAN, professor of pathologic physiology at the School of Medicine of the University of Chicago, delivered on May 2 the tenth Walter M. Brickner Lecture at the Hospital for Joint Diseases. He spoke on "Calcification and Ossification: Some Aspects of the Physiology of Bone."

DR. PHILIP D. McMASTER, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, will be the main speaker at the nineteenth annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Allergy in Cleveland, on June 3. His subject will be "The Lymphatic Participation in Human Cutaneous Phenomena."

At the first meeting of the directors of the National Science Fund held on May 21 at the University Club, New York, Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the New York Botanical Garden, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors, and Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the Board of the Chase National Bank of New York City, was elected vice-chairman. An account of the purposes of the fund is given in the issue of SCIENCE for May 9 (p. 446). Directors present at the organization meeting were: Albert F. Blakeslee, director, department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor; Luther P. Eisenhart, dean of the Graduate School, Princeton University; Herbert S. Gasser, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Walter S. Gifford, president, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Ross G. Harrison, chairman, National Research Council; Carlton J. H. Hayes, professor of history, Columbia University; The Honorable Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States; Frank

B. Jewett, president of the National Academy of Sciences; Alfred N. Richards, professor of pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania; William J. Robbins, director of the New York Botanical Garden; Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, and Tom K. Smith, president, the Boatmen's National Bank, St. Louis. Members of the executive committee are Winthrop W. Aldrich, Albert F. Blakeslee, Frank B. Jewett, William J. Robbins and Harlow Shapley.

THE Carnegie Corporation has renewed the grant to finance the Committee of Private Research of Western Reserve University for another year. Established a year ago as the outgrowth of the work of the late Dr. Robert C. Binkley, the committee encourages research and private scholarship. Dr. Harold A. Blaine will continue as director of the committee, and William S. Dicks as research associate.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports that the building of the Royal College of Surgeons in London was among the places damaged in recent air raids. It reads: "Valuable museum specimens were lost when the structure, twice slightly damaged in earlier raids, was hit by high explosive and fire bombs. The bulk of the famous Hunterian collection made by Dr. John Hunter, known as the founder of modern surgery, was buried under a pile of fire-swept debris. This collection was bought by the Government for £15,000 two years after Dr. Hunter's death in 1793."

Nature writes: "Owing to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has provided a grant

for the purpose, the Royal Society is in a position to give some assistance to scientific societies and associations which, as a result of war conditions, are experiencing financial difficulties in the publication of scientific journals."

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain celebrated in London on May 15 the centenary of its foundation. A thanksgiving service was held in the morning in the parish church of St. Pancras, and a commemoration meeting at Conway Hall was followed by a play, "Jacob Bell and Some Others," which recalled scenes surrounding the actual foundation of the society. The society received congratulations on its century of useful work from many medical associations, learned bodies, manufacturing and trading organizations in Great Britain and from pharmaceutical societies in all parts of the Empire and in the United States.

THE general meetings of the Linnean Society of London, according to *Nature*, were resumed, beginning on March 6. The centenary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as a Government institution, occurred on April 1, and at the meeting on April 3, Sir Arthur W. Hill, director of the Royal Gardens, gave some account of the work of Kew during the past hundred years. At the meeting on May 1, the society observed the tercentenary of the birth of Nehemiah Grew, when Dr. Agnes Arber gave an account of his work and that of Marcellus Malpighi. The anniversary meeting was held on May 24, when the president addressed the society. The council is considering the possibility of prolonging the session into July.

DISCUSSION

IS EVOLUTION INSCRUTABLE?

THE undeniable importance of Professor Goldschmidt's recent volume on evolution,¹ and the weight which its author's name justly carries, make it doubly needful that certain of its implications be fully recognized. Dobzhansky's assertion² that the acceptance of Goldschmidt's central theory demands a "belief in miracles" seems to me to be literally true, though the statement deserves some amplification.

The difficulties which beset the Darwinian theory of evolution through the natural selection of small variations were recognized by many of Darwin's contemporaries, and were discussed at great length by Darwin himself. Alternative theories of "saltation" or progress through large, discontinuous "jumps" were proposed by contemporary critics, notably by St. George

Mivart.³ Indeed, the rudiments of this idea long antedated Darwin, as witness Geoffroy St. Hilaire.

Mivart's evolutionism, as is well known, was strongly tinged with theology. The continuous intervention of the Creator in the evolutionary drama was fundamental in his world outlook. There was nothing disturbing to him in the notion that complex, adaptive structures could arise abruptly, since all this happened under divine guidance. The "innate tendency" to vary he conceived to be "an harmonious one, calculated to simultaneously adjust the various parts of the organism to their new relations."

It is needless to say that Professor Goldschmidt entertains no such theological interpretation of natural phenomena. Nor can we suspect him of sympathy with "vitalism," "teleology," "innate tendencies" or other forms of biological mysticism. Indeed, Goldschmidt's position would perhaps be more understand-

¹ "The Material Basis of Evolution." Yale University Press, 1940.

² *SCIENCE*, October 18, 1940.

³ "The Genesis of Species." Macmillan and Company, 1871.