

The officers elected include:

President, Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust, New Orleans, La.

President-elect, Dr. N. Paul Hudson, Columbus, Ohio.

Vice-president, Dr. Joseph S. D'Antoni, New Orleans, La.

Editor, Colonel Charles F. Craig, San Antonio, Texas.

Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. E. Harold Hinman, Wilson Dam, Ala.

Councilors (for 4 years), Dr. Andrew J. Warren, New York, N. Y.; Colonel James S. Simmons, Washington, D. C.

Member of Editorial Board, Dr. Justin Andrews, Atlanta, Ga. (for 5 years).

In conjunction with the Society of Tropical Medicine and the Southern Medical Association the eighth annual meeting of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine was held on November 12. At the dinner

session Dr. Marshall A. Barber delivered the annual presidential address on "The Human Side of Malaria Research." Dr. W. W. Cort presented the Theobald Smith Gold Medal of the George Washington University to Admiral E. R. Stitt, M. C., U. S. N., retired.

Dr. Marshall C. Balfour, International Health Division, Rockefeller Foundation, and Dr. Rolla E. Dyer, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Health, were elected to membership. Dr. C. C. Bass and Dr. L. O. Howard were elected emeritus members. The following officers and a five-year councilor were elected for the year 1942:

President, Dr. H. C. Clark.

Vice-president, Dr. L. W. Hackett.

Treasurer, Dr. T. T. Mackie.

Secretary, Dr. E. C. Faust.

Councilor, Dr. A. C. Chandler.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE autumn general meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, was held on November 21 and 22. The evening lecture, entitled "Military Aspects of the Arctic," was given by Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer.

THE Mead Johnson Awards for 1941 were announced at the annual meeting in Boston of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. René J. Dubos, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, received the first award of \$500 for his work leading to the development of gramicidin, used for the treatment of disease caused by pathogenic bacteria, and Dr. Albert B. Sabin, associate professor of pediatrics in the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati, received the second award of \$300 for research on diseases of the nervous system caused by viruses.

VICE-PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE will be decorated by the president of Cuba with the order of Carlos J. Finlay on December 3, during his visit to Cuba to attend meetings during which the Finlay Institute of the Americas will be inaugurated.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that Dr. Rudolph Matas, professor of general and clinical surgery, emeritus, of the School of Medicine of the Tulane University of Louisiana, was presented on October 25 with *The Times-Picayune* Loving Cup for 1940 "in recognition of his years of unselfish service to his fellowman."

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Joseph C. Beck, professor emeritus of otolaryngology of the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, was given on September 26. Dr. Beck was presented with a statue of himself which recently won a prize at the exhibit

of the American Physicians Art Association in Cleveland. The statue is the work of Dr. Adolph M. Brown.

EDWARD WESP, JR., a senior in the College of Engineering of New York University, has been awarded the Daniel W. Mead Prize—a certificate and \$50—of the American Society of Civil Engineers in recognition of his paper entitled "Ethics of the Engineer Inspector." The presentation will be made at the annual meeting of the society in January. The contestants included students in a hundred and twenty colleges throughout the country.

AT the annual dinner sponsored by the Chemical Control Committee of the National Fertilizer Association which was given on the evening of October 27, F. B. Carpenter, chief chemist of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation, presented a silver water pitcher and tray to E. W. Magruder, chief chemist of the F. S. Royster Guano Company, who originated the check fertilizer series in 1922.

DR. GEORGE R. MINOT, professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, has been elected president of the International Medical Assembly and president of the Inter-State Postgraduate Medical Association of America.

DR. EUGENE MCAULIFFE, of Omaha, Nebr., has been elected president of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. He will take office in February at the annual meeting of the institute in New York.

DR. OREN A. OLIVER, of Nashville, Tenn., was elected president, and Dr. J. Ben Robinson, of Baltimore,

was made president-elect, of the American Dental Association at the Houston meeting.

Museum News reports that E. A. Gallup, of Ann Arbor, Mich., was elected president of the American Institute of Park Executives at the New Orleans meeting in October; Donald Wyman, Arnold Arboretum, was elected a director for three years. Officers for the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums elected at the same time are as follows: Freeman M. Shelly, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, *chairman*; John T. Millen, Detroit Zoological Garden, *vice-chairman*; Tod Raper, *Columbus Dispatch*, *secretary*; Mrs. Belle J. Benchley, San Diego Zoological Society, and W. R. Sprott, Little Rock Zoo, *directors*. All officers for the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums were reelected.

PROFESSOR ALFRED H. WHITE, of the University of Michigan, president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, has resigned as chairman of the Michigan department of chemical and metallurgical engineering. He is succeeded as head of the department by Professor George E. Brown.

DR. PIERRE AUGER, professor of physics in the Ecole Normale Supérieure of the University of Paris, who is known for his work on cosmic rays, has been appointed research associate in physics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Auger conducted his laboratory in Paris for more than a year after the German occupation. He left the city on October 3 on official leave from the Vichy Government. He plans to accompany an expedition for cosmic-ray study which next summer will visit the research station on the summit of Mt. Evans in Colorado.

DR. CHARLES W. HUNTLEY has been appointed dean of Adelbert College, Western Reserve University. Dr. Huntley has been instructor in psychology at Mather College, Western Reserve University; he will now hold the rank of assistant professor of psychology in Adelbert College and will continue to teach psychology in both colleges.

DR. J. W. TREVAN, director of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, London, has been elected a director of the Wellcome Foundation, Ltd.

DR. JOHN SUNDWALL, director of the Division of Hygiene and Public Health of the University of Michigan, has been given leave of absence for the second semester.

DR. JOHN EVERETT GORDON, Charles Wilder professor of medicine and epidemiology of the Harvard Medical School, director of the American Red Cross Harvard Hospital Unit in southwestern England, arrived in New York on November 10 on the Atlantic Clipper, for a vacation and to recruit American staff

members for the unit. He expects to return to England in about a month.

SEÑOR MARCELINO A. CERIALE, director of the national standardizing body of Argentina, will visit the United States in February or March as a guest of the American Standards Association. The purpose of the trip is to further friendly relations between the United States and Argentina by giving him an opportunity to study at first hand the development of American industrial practices and standards. After his stay in Washington, he will visit manufacturing centers in Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Schenectady, etc. Steps have been taken to found a South American Committee for Technical Standards, with the purpose of stimulating the organization of national standardizing bodies and ultimately of having an influence on international trade. This committee held its first meeting last month in Rio de Janeiro.

DR. PETER DEBYE, chairman of the department of chemistry of Cornell University, will speak on "The Magnetic Approach to the Absolute Zero of Temperature" on December 3 at a joint meeting of the Franklin Institute with the Physics Club and Physics Colloquium of Philadelphia.

DR. GEORGE H. WHIPPLE, dean and professor of pathology of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester, delivered on November 28 the sixteenth Pasteur Lecture of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago at a joint meeting with the Illinois Section of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. His subject was "The Production, Utilization and Interrelation of Blood Proteins—Hemoglobin and Plasma Proteins."

ON account of war conditions, Dr. Elmer V. McCollum, professor of biochemistry at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, will deliver at the University of Toronto on December 1, 2 and 3 the Harben Lectures of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. His general subject will be "Nutritional Science and Public Health."

DR. R. RUGGLES GATES, of the University of London, lectured at Vassar College on November 12 on "Heredity and Environment in Human Genetics" and at Dartmouth College on November 13 on "Human Genetics and Race."

BEGINNING on November 5 and ending on January 21 a series of lectures on tropical medicine will be presented at the School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico, by various members of the department of medicine. The lectures will be given by Drs. Ramon M. Suarez, head of the department, by

Dr. R. Rodriguez-Mollina and by Dr. F. Hernandez Morales.

A COMPREHENSIVE survey of employment, unemployment and related labor conditions is being conducted in St. Paul, Minn., by the Employment Stabilization Research Institute of the University of Minnesota, of which Dean R. A. Stevens is director. The present study is jointly directed by Professor Dale Yoder, of the School of Business Administration, and Professor Donald G. Paterson, of the department of psychology. Professor R. L. Kozelka is assisting as consulting statistician. The work is being financed by a grant of \$50,450 from the Rockefeller Foundation.

THE twenty-eighth Congress of Americanists will be held in Santiago, Chile, in March.

A MEETING of the northern California section of the Institute of Food Technologists will be held on December 4 under the presidency of B. E. Lesley, of

California Packing Corporation. Dr. T. L. Swenson, director of the Albany Regional Research Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will preside at the dinner, and Dr. J. Murray Luck, of Stanford University, will speak on Great Britain's food supply.

THE twenty-sixth annual dinner and meeting of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago will be held at the Stevens Hotel on December 2. The presidential address will be delivered by Dr. Rollin T. Woodyatt on "The Story of Acidosis."

THE Southern District meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held at New Orleans from December 3 to 5.

THE next meeting of the trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund will be held in April, 1942. Previous awards from the fund were reported in SCIENCE on May 16, 1941, and earlier. Applications for grants should be made to the secretary, Dr. Jeffries Wyman, Jr., Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

DISCUSSION

UNRECOGNIZED ARID HAWAIIAN SOIL EROSION

WATER is the most important product of the forests of Oahu island, and forage is the most important product from the large areas of non-forested and non-agricultural lands of this and other Hawaiian islands. The continued production of these resources is intimately dependent on soil for absorption and percolation of the precipitation. Absorbed water is necessary for the continuance of plant growth *in situ*. Water percolated through the lava beds maintains the supply that is obtained from an elaborate system of tunnels and wells, and which is used for agricultural and urban purposes. Water neither absorbed nor percolated is largely surface runoff, which feeds the streams and generally flows to the sea, unused by man. The retention of the high rainfall for the production of forage and of usable water is therefore seen to depend on the maintenance and preservation of the soil mantle. Soil erosion is thus a critical factor in the economy and production of a country which is becoming increasingly important to the welfare of continental United States.

The United States may justly boast that it is the first nation in history to recognize incipient stages of soil erosion and to institute elaborate and effective management methods for the perpetuation of the soil mantle under active land uses.^{1, 2} The United States furthermore is largely responsible for the recognition

in northern Africa and southwestern Asia of the direful results of unchecked soil erosion and the poverty of land stripped to bed-rock and without the mediating influence of developed soil and vegetation.

Americans, however, need not have gone to other flags to find lands in which erosion had proceeded unchecked, and where, with no more soil to erode, a new equilibrium has been attained as stricken as areas in Africa and Asia known to the author. Since N. E. Winters³ states that "The problem of soil erosion is not so wide-spread and serious in Hawaii as it is on the mainland of the United States," he is obviously referring to areas in which erosion is now actively occurring and which locally may be as striking as that of our southeastern Piedmont.

Adjacent to these eroding lands in Hawaii and in areas of lower precipitation and lower elevation is a zone, admittedly often narrow on Oahu but widespread on other islands, where soil no longer remains and where the annual increment of rock weathering is not retained by the stable sparse vegetation, but is removed by surface runoff. The theory that these lower arid slopes once bore heavy soil mantles capable of supporting a more luxuriant vegetation than that now existing depends on five lines of evidence: (1) the existence of several relict soil mats, stable on the surface, but eroding rapidly at the margins by undercutting; (2) a stage of rapid alluviation in many valleys which in some cases has buried still living trees to their crowns; (3) the development of narrow

¹ H. H. Bennett, *Science Supplement*, 94: 2429, 8, 1941.

² W. C. Lowdermilk, *loc. cit.*

³ N. E. Winters, *Hawaii Territorial Planning Board Progress Report*, 81-82, 1939.