

Company for the development of a successful process for recovering metallic magnesium from ocean water—the first metal to be obtained in commercial quantities from the ocean in the history of the world.

AWARDS OF THE CHARLES FREDERICK CHANDLER MEDAL

AWARDS of the Charles Frederick Chandler Medal of Columbia University have been made to two brothers, Dr. Robert R. Williams, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories of New York, and Professor Roger J. Williams, of the University of Texas.

Dr. Robert R. Williams was cited for "his years of work on the isolation of Vitamin B₁ and his contributions to the elucidation of its chemical structure." Vitamin B₁, which he synthesized and named thiamin, is the antineuritic beriberi vitamin, vital to nerve health and life.

The award to Professor Roger J. Williams was made in recognition of his discovery of pantothenic acid, powerful regulator of growth popularly known as "the acid of life" and for his contributions to the knowledge of the Vitamin B complex.

This is the first double award of the medal since it was established in 1910 in honor of Dr. Charles Frederick Chandler, professor of chemistry at Columbia University, pioneer in industrial chemistry. The formal presentation will take place in February at a ceremony in Havemeyer Hall, at which each of the 1942 recipients will receive a medal and each will deliver a lecture.

Dr. Robert R. Williams, in addition to his work on Vitamin B₁, has contributed to industrial chemistry through his leadership of an organization of 140 workers in the Bell Telephone Laboratories, of which he has been chemical director for the last seventeen years.

Pantothenic acid, for the discovery of which Dr. Roger J. Williams received the award, is one of the most important components of the vague "bios" of the period twenty years earlier. It represents the first example of a compound whose structure has been elucidated in spite of the fact that its isolation in pure form has so far not been possible.

In investigating bios Dr. Williams, working with the purest material he could obtain, devised new modes of characterization of the substance in terms of physicochemical and physiological properties which furnished the clues for the later verification of its structure by synthesis at the Merck Laboratories with his collaboration. This work led to the exploration of many other plant growth stimulants to which he gave the name "nutrilites."

Professor Arthur W. Thomas was chairman of the Chandler Award Committee. Other members were Professors Leo H. Baekeland and Arthur W. Hixson. There have been seventeen previous recipients of the medal. The last award was made in 1939 to Thomas H. Chilton, director of the technical division of the engineering department of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company at Wilmington.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE John Fritz Medal for 1942 has been awarded to Dr. Everette Lee DeGolyer, consulting petroleum engineer, of Dallas, Texas, and president of the Felmont Corporation, in recognition of his work on the application of geophysical exploration to the search for oil fields. The award, which is sponsored by the four leading national engineering societies, will be presented to Dr. DeGolyer at a dinner of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on January 14.

DR. TOM DOUGLAS SPIES, of the School of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati and Hillman Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., in recognition of his work with nicotinic acid, was presented at a meeting on December 8 in Washington with the Award of Distinction of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association. This award is made annually to an investigator who, in the opinion of the committee, has made a fundamental contribution to public health in the field of drug therapy. Last year Dr. Perrin

Long, of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, received the award for his study of the use of the sulfa drugs.

THE Lister Medal for 1942, which is given in recognition of distinguished contributions to surgical science, has been awarded to Dr. Evarts A. Graham, professor of surgery in Washington University, and he will deliver the Lister Memorial Lectures in 1942, or later, under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

THE council of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, has made the following awards for the year 1941: Victoria Medal of Honor.—E. L. Hillier, for his work in the introduction of new and rare plants. Associateship of Honor.—W. D. Besant, director of parks and botanic gardens, Glasgow; G. F. Hallett, head gardener at Lilford Hall, Oundle, Peterborough; F. Streeter, head gardener at Petworth Park, Sussex; H. Windibank, head gardener at Frensham Hall, Haslemere. Veitch Memorial Medals and Prizes.—B. Y. Morrison, Washington, D. C., gold medal for