

University—The preparation of a book on nervous tension in man.

Dr. E. Yale Dawson, Captain, Army; assistant in botany, University of California—Exploration of the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America for marine algae and the continuation of monograph studies of the marine flora of that region.

Dr. Harold F. Blum, principal biophysicist, Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.—An evaluation of evolutionary concepts, with special emphasis on physiological and environmental aspects.

Dr. Orville T. Bailey, pathologist, Harvard Medical School; War Research under OSRD contract—Studies of the application of physiological methods to problems of degeneration in nerve fibers and myelin sheaths, in correlation with cytological studies.

Dr. Roy Overstreet, assistant soil chemist, Division of Soils, and research associate, Radiation Laboratory, University of California—A study of the absorption and behavior of inorganic ions in plant nutrition by means of radioactive elements and the preparation of radioautographs of the plant tissues.

Dr. George L. Kreezer, associate professor of psychology, Cornell University; staff member, Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology—Mathematical analysis of physiological regulatory systems on the basis of physical automatic control theory.

Walter H. Pitts, mathematician; staff member, Radiation Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology—Studies of the mathematics of the nervous system.

Dr. Britton Chance, assistant professor, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania: Doing War Research under OSRD contract—An experimental study of the chemical kinetics of the respiratory enzymes.

Dr. Charles Kittel, physicist; supervisor, Submarine Operations Research Group, Navy—Studies of the theory of the electrical and mechanical properties of matter at microwave radio frequencies.

Dr. Lindsay Helmholtz, assistant professor of chemistry, Dartmouth College; chemist working on War Department contract—a study of absorption spectra and structures of solids with the purpose of finding relations that will make possible wider use of absorption data in obtaining information of chemical importance concerning crystals and their constituent atoms or ions.

### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE twelfth annual meeting of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine was held on November 14 at Cincinnati, Ohio, in conjunction with the Southern Medical Association and the American Society of Tropical Medicine. Dr. E. V. Cowdry, of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., served as toastmaster. Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Rockefeller Foundation, Tallahassee, Fla., delivered the presidential address. His subject was "International Appraisal of Tropical Medicine." Dr. Louis van den Berghe, of the Belgian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, spoke on

"The Importance of Tropical Medicine in International Health and Economics."

The following were elected to membership in the academy: Leon A. Fox, M.C., U.S.A.; Clay G. Huff, University of Chicago; Henry Pinkerton, St. Louis University; Paul W. Wilson, M.C., U.S.N., and Willard H. Wright, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md.

The following were elected to emeritus membership: R. C. Connor, Charles A. Kofoed, Ernest L. Walker and George H. Whipple.

Officers and councilors elected for the ensuing year are as follows:

*President*, James S. Simmons, M.C., U.S.A.

*Vice-president*, George K. Strode, Rockefeller Foundation.

*Secretary*, Ernest Carroll Faust, Tulane University.

*Treasurer*, Thomas T. Mackie, M.C., A.U.S.

*Councilor* (5-year term), L. T. Coggeshall, M.C., U.S.N.(R).

*Councilor* (3-year term), Karl F. Meyer, Hooper Foundation, San Francisco.

ERNEST CARROLL FAUST,  
*Secretary*

### NEWS FROM ABROAD

THE following information has been received by Dr. R. C. Mason, of the Research Laboratories at Pittsburgh of the Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Company, from Dr. H. Brinkman concerning the laboratories of physics in Holland.

... In Amsterdam, the Germans stole many instruments, especially the high tension apparatus and the neutron generator tube from the physical institute of Dr. G. T. Sizoo, who is working on radioactive and nuclear physics problems. Some instruments were taken from Leiden, but other university laboratories (Utrecht, Amsterdam, Groningen and the Technical High School at Delft) suffered no permanent loss, as practically all apparatus was concealed in cellars of buildings, churches, etc. The same is true of the research laboratories of the Shell Company at Amsterdam, and the Phillips Company at Eindhoven. The Agricultural High School at Wageningen was heavily looted, and the laboratories of the N. V. KEMA (Electrical Testing Laboratories) at Arnhem were completely looted by the Germans between October, 1944, and March, 1945, at a damage of three million guilders.

More than by material losses the universities and high schools suffered personal losses. Several professors and very many students died in concentration camps or because of their illegal (resistance movement) work. For instance, by execution and concentration camps, 150 students and two professors of the Technical High School at Delft alone died. The Dutch Physical Society lost in that way 16 of its members.

On September 29, we had the first gathering of the

Dutch Physical Society after the liberation of Holland. . . .

An earlier letter from the same correspondent brought news of the death of Professor L. S. Ornstein in 1941.

Dr. William Randolph Taylor, of the University of Michigan, writes:

A letter dated October 30, 1945, from C. J. H. van den Broek, who is at present connected with the Central Institute for Food Research, Utrecht, tells of the difficulty of providing instruction during the period of the German occupation for those students who could not attend the Nazi-approved university classes. It also gives an apparently very recent list of Netherlands East Indies biologists, with what was known to date of their fate. To quote:

In the days your letter came we hadn't heard anything yet about Dutch biologists in the Netherlands Indies, but already there was no asking any more if somebody would still be working, but only if the man was still alive. Since then a letter from Giesberger (from Singapore) to Professor Königsberger has arrived, containing the following list, that I give you completely in case you'd know some one of them:

Living are:

Giesberger	Dijkman	Vles
Van Eek	Hart	De Haan
Blomberg	Reitsma	Maas
Van Weel	Sody	Velzen
De Jong	Roelofse	Lieftinck
Pfalzer, Jr.	Van der Pijl	Siebers
Van Wieringen	Van Steenis	De Jongh
Ferwerda	Halsvoogd	Posthumus
B. Polak	Kalis	Douk
Ruinen	Tammes	Van den Honert
Rümke	Toxopeus (two	Heyn
Weelburg	of this name)	Pfalzer, Sr.
Clason	Kalshoven	Schuurman
Buwalda	Van Sloten	Boedijn
Korthaus	De Wit	Ommen
Sinia	ten Houte	Hilleris Lambers
	Thomas	

Dead are:

De Groot	Vos	Gandrup
Hardenberg	Van Gennep	Both
Duyfjes	Van der Goot	Booberg
Miss Bolle	Altman	Bos
Ferman	Harteveld	F. Gorter (?)
	Eyma	

As you see [Dr. D.] Hardenberg [Director, Laboratorium voor Onderzoek der Zee, Batavia] is reported dead, but there is another rumor (probably of older date) that he is still alive. I'm sorry that I can't give you any better news—we all are waiting for it now!

Dr. Taylor has also heard from Dr. Mary W. Parke that she has been transferred from the marine station at Port Erin, Isle of Man, where she was resident phycologist, to the station at Plymouth. As is already known, the latter station suffered from the 1941 air raids, but the Port Erin station did not. He also reports that M. P. Bourrelly has been appointed assistant for freshwater algae at the Museum National

d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, to fill one of the vacancies left by the war-time deaths at that institution.

Dr. P. W. Whiting, of the University of Pennsylvania, reports that Professor A. Vandel, of Laboratoire de Zoologie de la Faculté des Sciences, Allées, Saint-Michel, Toulouse, writes that Toulouse has been fortunate in its relative separation from the war and that his laboratory was never struck by air action. Although the investigators have had to undergo severe restrictions and the output of scientific publications has been much retarded, he has nevertheless been able to continue his researches on sex in terrestrial Isopoda. He is pleased to be again receiving foreign publications.

Professor Fr. Fichter, of Basle, Switzerland, writes to Dr. Colin G. Fink, secretary of the Electrochemical Society, Inc., that he retired from his professorship in 1939, had edited a book on electro-organic chemistry which was printed in 1942, and that he is now very active in editing *Helvetica chimica acta*, which "is growing bigger every year." Dr. Fichter is assisted in his editorial work by Mrs. Fichter. He is now 76. His son has spent several years in America and is now returning to Switzerland.

The following letter has been received by Dr. Henry H. Tryon, director of the Black Rock Forest, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, from Dr. C. H. Bornebusch, director, Statens Forstlige Forsøgsvaesen, Springforbi, Denmark:

Your promise to assist us in getting seed from American forest trees I accept with great gratitude. We shall be much interested in obtaining acorns of *Quercus borealis* from trees of good site. Usually the price of American tree seed has been so high that we could only buy for experimental purposes. We should be very happy, if it can be arranged, to obtain several hundred kilos for the experiment station. These should come from different stands and sites which are suitable for our rather low summer temperatures.

We also need a considerable quantity of Douglas fir seed every year. It would mean a great deal to us; it would be a large step forward if some forwarding arrangement could be perfected with the U. S.

Dr. Rousseau H. Flowers, assistant State paleontologist of the New York State Museum, reports that a letter from Dr. Ferdinand Prantl, of the Narodni Museum v Praze, reads:

I take the liberty to bring to your notice that the National Museum in Prague was very heavily damaged by the Nazi-bombs at the same time or later than the signing of the general capitulation of the German army. The famous collections of Barrande, of which I have the honor to be the keeper, are safe. On the other hand, there were destroyed entirely our working rooms. I have lost many text-books and the greater number of the paleontological reprints and journals.

Dr. Prantl has written requesting reprints, offering his own in exchange. Doubtless any other papers relating to Paleozoic paleontology and stratigraphy would be greatly appreciated.

Bernard D. Davis, assistant editor of the *American Review of Scientific Medicine*, writes:

In line with your policy of providing information on the reconstruction of scientific activities in Europe, you may be interested in the following abstract from an article in the *Bulletin* of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Izvestia Akad. Nauk SSSR) Biol. Series No. 2, p. 146 (1945). Written by E. N. Pavlovsky, director of the Zoological Institute of the academy, it concerns the history of this institute, which was founded in 1724 as the Cabinet of Curiosities of Peter the First, subsequently becoming the Zoological Museum in 1837 and the Zoological Institute in 1930.

"During the patriotic war almost all the associates of

the (Zoological) Institute were evacuated, mostly to Tadjikistan (Stalinabad). Very energetic and productive work was done in studying the fauna and ecology of Tadjikistan. All the collections and the main funds of the institute were left in Leningrad; they were stored in the basements and the exhibition halls. Five shells which hit the building did not cause great harm so that the collections remained intact. Scores of incendiary bombs were extinguished by the associates of the institute.

"The activities of the Zoological Institute are in full sway. Its main publication is 'Fauna of Russia and the Adjacent Countries.' About twenty-five volumes of these monographs were already issued prior to the Revolution. This edition has been reorganized into the 'Fauna of the USSR.' Over twenty-five volumes have been published and about twenty volumes prepared for the press. Reevacuation of the institute has already begun and the next task is complete reconstruction, which will be accomplished in summer, 1945."

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. DETLEV W. BRONK, professor of biophysics and director of the Eldridge R. Johnson Foundation of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed foreign secretary of the National Academy of Sciences. By virtue of this appointment, Dr. Bronk also becomes chairman of the Division of Foreign Relations of the National Research Council.

DR. W. F. HAND has retired as dean of the School of Science of the Mississippi State College and as state chemist, but continues as vice-president of the college. He is succeeded as head of the department of chemistry and as state chemist by Dr. M. P. Etheridge. Dr. Clay Lyle, executive officer of the State Plant Board, head of the department of zoology and entomology, and entomologist for the Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension Service, succeeds Dr. Hand as dean of the school of science.

DR. DONALD G. ANDERSON, who was associated with the distribution of penicillin during the war, has been named dean of Boston University.

DR. WILLIAM B. SARLES, associate professor of agricultural bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed a half-time assistant to the president of the university, Dr. Edwin F. Fred.

DR. H. LEO MARSHALL, professor and head of the department of public health and preventive medicine of the University of Utah, has been named acting dean of the School of Medicine.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY and the American Museum of Natural History have concluded arrangements for a mutual plan of instruction and research in vertebrate paleontology. Dr. George Gaylord Simpson

and Dr. Edwin H. Colbert, of the American Museum, have been appointed professors of vertebrate paleontology at the university. They will serve in the departments of zoology and geology, respectively. The appointments provide a succession to Dr. William King Gregory, Da Costa professor of zoology, who retired recently. Dr. Norman D. Newell, of Madison, Wis., has been appointed professor of invertebrate paleontology in the department of geology of the university and curator of invertebrate paleontology at the museum.

DR. EMILIO SEGRE has been appointed professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Segre has been at Los Alamos, New Mexico, since 1943 and expects to take up his professorship within the next few months after completing his work at Los Alamos. Prior to 1943, Dr. Segre was for two years a lecturer in physics at the university.

DRS. DANA PAUL MITCHELL and Norman Foster Ramsey, Jr., of Columbia University, have been promoted to the rank of associate professor of physics. Raymond David Mindlin has been promoted to an associate professorship of civil engineering.

DR. CLAUDE VILLEE has been appointed instructor in biological chemistry in the Harvard Medical School.

At the University of London, Dr. G. A. H. Buttle has been appointed to the university chair of pharmacology tenable at the College of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

DR. J. M. MEEK has been appointed to the David Jardine chair of electrical engineering (electronical) at the University of Liverpool.