

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.

DR. EDWARD A. STEINHAUS, assistant professor of bacteriology, recently joined the staff of the Division of Entomology and Parasitology of the University of California at Berkeley to carry out research in insect pathology in relation to biological control, under Professor Harry S. Smith of Riverside.

LIEUTENANT E. G. STANLEY BAKER, Army Air Forces, formerly assistant professor of zoology at Wabash College, has been released from active duty.

DR. GEORGE TAYLOR, assistant keeper (first class), has been appointed deputy keeper in the department of botany at the British Museum.

DR. PHILIP B. PRICE, professor of surgery at the University of Utah, has been granted by the Givaudan-Delawanna Corporation the sum of \$5,250 for an investigation of skin disinfection.

DR. JAMES HENDERSON, lecturer in mathematics at King's College, London, has been appointed academic registrar of the university from January 1, 1946.

At the Case School of Applied Science, Dr. Robert S. Shankland, on leave for the past three years to the Office of Scientific Research and Development, has returned to his position as head of the department of physics, and Dr. Robert Rinehart, Dr. Charles C. Torrance, Dr. Paul Guenther and Dr. Lewis J. Green have resumed their work in the department of mathematics.

DR. JAMES CURRY has returned to Williams College after having spent over two years at the Radio Research Laboratory of Harvard University. He takes over the chairmanship of the department of chemistry. Dr. Warren C. Lothrop has joined the department as an assistant professor. He will teach organic chemistry. During the war Dr. Lothrop was in Washington and served as a technical aid in the National Research Defense Committee.

DR. BILL ELPERN, who has been working under a National Defense Research Committee contract on anti-malarials at the University of Nebraska during the past year, has recently become senior chemist with the Winthrop Chemical Company, Inc., Rensselaer, N. Y. Dr. Oliver H. Buchanan, research associate in the department of biological chemistry at the Medical School of the University of Michigan, has joined the research staff as a senior investigator.

DEAN HOMER JAY HENNEY, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Colorado State College at Fort Collins, has been granted leave of absence for a year to become deputy director of the food and agricultural branch of the military control council in Germany.

A GRANT of \$3,000 from the Research Corporation

has been received by the University of Pittsburgh to enable an extension of investigations conducted by Dr. Klaus Hofmann, associate research professor of chemistry. The program, which is part of the research in the natural sciences supported by an earlier grant from the Buhl Foundation, is designed to clarify the action of biotin, a vitamin of the B-complex group, the chemical structure of which Dr. Hofmann helped to work out several years ago.

DR. W. S. GILLAM, professor of agricultural chemistry at Purdue University, has joined the staff of the Midwest Research Institute, Kansas City. He will carry on research in soils and plant nutrition and in analytical services.

DR. ROBERT D. COGHILL, Peoria, Ill., chief of the Fermentation Division, Northern Regional Research Laboratory, in Peoria, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has become associate research director of the Abbott Laboratories.

DR. GEORGE DE WITT GRAVES and Dr. Robert Emmett Burk have been appointed assistant chemical directors of the plastics department of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington 98, Delaware. Both have been assisting John L. Brill, chemical director of the department. They now will have charge of all phases of research in plastics under Mr. Brill.

C. H. ACHESON, formerly party chief of gravity meter work in Columbia and later in western and northwestern Canada, has been transferred to Ecuador, to take up the position of gravity meter supervisor for the International Ecuadorian Petroleum Company in Guayaquil.

THE psychological staff of Stevenson, Jordan and Harrison, Inc., management engineers, has been in process of reorganization since September. The Chicago office has recently added Dr. Eleroy L. Stromberg and Dr. L. René Gaiennie, of the Branch of Aviation Psychology of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy Department, to its staff. Both Dr. Stromberg and Dr. Gaiennie had been placed on the inactive list.

DR. JULIAN HUXLEY, secretary of the Zoological Society, London, addressed the meeting of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions that was held at Madison Square Garden, New York City, on December 4, to discuss the atomic bomb.

PROFESSOR CLAUDE E. ZOBELL, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, delivered on November 15 an address entitled "Microbial Transformation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons," at the three hundred and thirty-sixth meeting of the Washington Academy of

Sciences, which was held jointly with the Geological Society of Washington.

DR. F. C. BISHOPP, assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, addressed a joint meeting in New York of the New York University Medical Society and the New York University Chapter of Sigma Xi on November 11. He spoke on "Insect Control—War and Post-War Developments."

DR. K. LINDERSTRØM-LANG, of the Carlsberg Laboratories in Copenhagen, and Dr. Ernst Bergmann, of the Sieff Institute in Jerusalem, spoke before the Organic Chemistry Seminar of Fordham University on November 2 and 14, respectively. Dr. Linderstrøm-Lang reported on "Recent Advances in Microbiological Methods," and Dr. Bergmann discussed "Walden Inversion and Racemization Reactions."

PROFESSOR WILBUR M. WILSON, of the department of civil engineering of the University of Illinois, spoke at Iowa State College, Ames, at a Sigma Xi dinner and initiation on November 27. His lecture was entitled "Notes from the Diary of a Research Engineer."

THE third annual D. J. Davis Lecture on medical history of the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois at Chicago was delivered on November 21 by Dr. Carl E. Black. He spoke on "Medical Practice Before the Hard Roads."

AT the fall dinner on November 13 of the Smith College chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi, Dr. Henry Allen Moe, secretary-general of the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, was the guest speaker. His subject was "Proposed Government Plans for the Discovery and Development of Scientific Talent." Dr. Marjorie Williams, of the department of astronomy, is president of the chapter for the coming year.

THE four hundred and thirteenth meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at the California Institute of Technology on November 24. By invitation of the Committee to Select Hour Speakers for Far Western Sectional Meetings, Professor Hans Lewy, of the University of California, Berkeley, delivered an address entitled "Water Waves on Sloping Beaches."

THE Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology will meet in Atlantic City beginning on Monday, March 11, 1946. The federation is composed of the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Experimental Pathology, the American Institute of Nutrition and the American Association of Immunologists.

A STATEMENT setting forth their position on the international control of atomic energy has been made public by five hundred and fifteen physicists, chemists and engineers who were engaged in war research at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A summary of this statement reads: "Specifically our conclusions are: (1) Other nations will be able to produce atomic bombs; (2) no effective defense is possible in atomic warfare; (3) safety can not be obtained by superiority in atomic armament; (4) henceforth, war will mean the destruction of a large fraction of civilization; (5) international cooperation of an unprecedented kind is necessary for our survival."

THE French Press and Information Service reports that a new ordinance, appearing in the *Journal Officiel*, establishes a committee for atomic energy. It is stated in the preamble: "Urgent national and international necessities have obliged the taking of the requisite measures, so that France may hold her place in the field of research in atomic energy." This organization will include a small committee which will act as a board of management and at the same time act as a working group in scientific research. Scientific and technical work will be directed by a high commissioner. A general manager representing the Government will be placed at the head of the administrative and financial management of the commission. Three investigators in atomic research and the president of the coordinating committee of national defense research work will be appointed members of the commission, which will be presided over by the president of the Provisional Government. The commission's freedom of action is guaranteed by the fact that its creation is regulated by civil and commercial law.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE ROLE OF AMINO ACIDS AND AMIDES IN THE METABOLISM OF AMMONIUM ABSORBED BY ZEA MAYS L.¹

ONE or the other; and sometimes both, of the acid

¹ Published with the approval of the director of the

amides, asparagine and glutamine, have been known for many years to accumulate in plants when ammonium is absorbed from the substrate or when the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station as Journal Paper No. 198.