

# NEWS

## and Notes

**J. W. Buchanan** has resigned as Morrison Professor and chairman of the Department of Zoology at Northwestern University to become Hancock Professor of Zoology and director of research in the Hancock Foundation of the University of Southern California.

**Katherine Way**, physicist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has joined the staff of the National Bureau of Standards, where she will conduct research in nuclear physics for the Radioactivity Laboratory. Dr. Way will head a project for compiling a table of present-day nuclear data, to which periodic supplements will be added. The table will be available to scientific institutions, universities, the government, industry, and the public.

**V. I. Komarewsky**, professor of chemical engineering and director of the Catalysis Laboratory at Illinois Institute of Technology, will speak before the Danish Chemical Society in Copenhagen in September. Dr. Komarewsky, who has been a staff member of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Biochemistry in Berlin and the Moscow Academy of Mines, will discuss the catalytic reaction of hydrocarbons.

**Merritt Lyndon Fernald**, Fisher Professor of Natural History, emeritus, and former director of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary member of the Societas pro Fauna et Flora of Finland.

**Frederick V. Rand**, plant pathologist in the Office of Experiment Stations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, retired on June 30, after 38 years of government service. Dr. Rand did extensive research in the causes and prevention of bacterial wilt of cucumbers, cantaloupes, squashes, and corn by beetle carriers.

He served as executive secretary of the division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council and associate editor of both *Botanical Abstracts* and *Biological Abstracts*.

**E. W. Comings**, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Illinois, will spend a month at the Army Chemical Center this summer. During this time he will make a study of special problems of the Technical Command and the Medical Division. In addition, he will give a series of lectures on fluid dynamics to a selected group of chemical and mechanical engineers of the Army Chemical Center.

### Visitors to U. S.

Recent visitors at the National Bureau of Standards were **S. C. Stokes**, British Rubber Producers' Research Association, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, England; **G. C. Ellis**, metallurgist with the Armament Research Establishment, London; **Goeffrey G. Haselden**, lecturer in low temperature technology, Imperial College, London; **O. H. Saunders**, professor of engineering at London University; **G. P. Douglas** and **E. G. Broadbent**, both of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, England; **Karl G. Ekblad**, civil engineer at Chalmers University, Gothenburg, Sweden, who is here on a year's Scandinavian-American fellowship; **R. H. Field**, chief of the Metrology Section of the Canadian National Research Council; **Roger Coutant**, director general of the Ateliers Pingris et Mollet Fontaine Reimis, Lille, France; **J. Kampe de Fériet** of the University of Lille, France; **L. P. Buseth**, chemical engineer with the A. S. De Forenede Ullvarefabrikker of Oslo, Norway; **Giuseppe Francini**, professor of electrical engineering, University of Bologna; **A. R. Burgess**, of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., England. Visitors from India were **S. Sankaralingam**, assistant engineer with the government of Madras and at present associated with the University of Louisville; **R. R. Umarji**, professor of mathematics at Gujarat College,

Ahmedabad, and member of the Bombay Education Service; and **K. Rajagopalaswami**, chief geologist of the Associated Cement Companies, Ltd., Bombay.

**Luis Richard**, tuberculosis specialist at the Hospital del Salvador, Santiago, Chile, is working with the Massachusetts State Department of Health in Boston.

**H. O. Hartley**, Department of Applied Statistics of the University of London, is here for six months to edit "An Index of Tables for Statisticians" on behalf of the Subcommittee on Statistical Tables, National Research Council.

**Luis J. Giove Deacon**, associate professor of human anatomy at the Medical School of the University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru, is here as consultant on plans for a maternity clinic to be operated by the Maternity Home in Lima, of which he is the director.

**Vincent Russo**, Buenos Aires economist, is visiting in Washington and New York until August 5, when he will leave for an assignment in Rome, Italy.

### Grants and Awards

The National Cancer Institute has made one new grant and 39 renewals totaling \$872,477 to medical schools and one new grant and 15 renewals totaling \$81,439 to dental schools for continued cancer training programs. The two schools receiving aid for the first time are the Chicago Medical School and the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. Thirty-six special cancer control grants totaling \$550,802 were made to state and local health agencies, universities, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations.

**Henry P. Hansen** of Oregon State College was the recent recipient of the 1948 **George Mercer Award** for the outstanding paper in the field of ecology published in the United States and Canada in 1947. Dr. Hansen's paper, "Postglacial Forest Succession, Climate, and Chronology in the Pacific Northwest," appeared in the *Transactions*

of the *American Philosophical Society*. Presentation of the Mercer Award, which honors Lieutenant George Mercer, a young British ecologist killed in World War I, was made at the summer meeting of the Western Section of the Ecological Society of America held in Vancouver, B. C., June 14-18.

## Meetings and Elections

**The Biological Photographic Association, Inc.** will hold its 19th annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio on September 7-10 at the Hotel Cleveland. A program covering all phases of biological photography is being assembled. Inquiries regarding commercial exhibits should be addressed to Fred S. Beal, St. Luke's hospital, 11311 Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland 4. The pre-convention issue of the *B. P. A. Journal* will give complete details of the convention plans.

**The Ohio Academy of Science** elected as officers for the year 1949-50 at its 58th annual meeting: Paul B. Sears, Oberlin College, president; Rush Elliott, Ohio University, secretary; R. M. Geist, Capital University, treasurer.

At the recent business meeting of the **Paleontological Society of Washington**, held at the U. S. National Museum, the following officers were elected to serve for the year 1949-50: president, James Steele Williams, U. S. Geological Survey; vice president, Helen M. Duncan, U. S. Geological Survey; secretary, David Nicol, U. S. National Museum; treasurer, A. L. Bowsher, U. S. National Museum; and member of Executive Committee, A. R. Loeblich, Jr.

**The Illinois State Academy of Science** elected the following officers for 1949-50 at its 42nd annual meeting: Thorne Deuel, director of the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, president; Percival Robertson, Principia College, Elsah, first vice president; F. M. Fryxell, Augustana College, Rock Island, second vice president; Leland Shanor, University

of Illinois, Urbana, secretary; W. W. Grimm, Bradley University, Peoria, treasurer; and Dorothy E. Rose, Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana, editor. Leland Shanor is representative to the AAAS.

**The Illuminating Engineering Society** elected the following new officers as of October 1: Charles H. Goddard, of the Sylvania Electric Products Inc., Ipswich, Massachusetts; S. G. Hibben, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, vice president; E. M. Strong, Cornell University, treasurer; A. H. Manwaring, Philadelphia Electrical & Manufacturing Company, general secretary.

**A Wood Symposium**, cosponsored by the National Research Council and the Office of Naval Research, was held on June 16-17, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C. The conference was called to acquaint scientists and men in the lumber industry with the military requirements of wood and wood products and also to discuss present-day investigations and improvements in the field.

Karl T. Compton, chairman of the Research and Development Board, National Military Establishment, stated in the opening address that "from the standpoint of research and development of the National Military Establishment there is, of course, a responsibility and interest in seeing that anything that can be done to improve materials or equipment for military purposes is done, within the limits of man power and funds available for the work."

The keynote of the conference was conservation. Methods of controlling marine borers are being studied in several laboratories. Physiological studies of wood-rotting fungi, with a view to understanding the basic functioning of the organism in order to find a point at which it might be attacked, are under way at the Department of Plant Sciences at Syracuse University, supported by the Office of Naval Research. Two other ONR-sponsored projects, one at Fordham University and one at the University of Maryland, are exploring the

chemistry of lignin. An investigation of the effects of insects on wood is a combined project of the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Agriculture. The chemical utilization of wood and wood residues is being studied at the U. S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory. The Yale University School of Forestry is surveying wood supply and analyzing tropical woods.

Papers presented by Army and Navy participants revealed the enormous amount of lumber required for shore installations as well as for the thousands of small craft needed in landing operations, rescue work, and coastwise transportation. A review of World War II requirements showed that in 1944 close to three million tons were needed for all installations, afloat and ashore; and for wood-packaging alone it was estimated that half the total harvest was going into containers as of August 1945. While peacetime requirements are much smaller, the services realize that in another conflict they would operate in an economy of scarcity rather than one of plenty such as existed at the beginning of World War II. It may seem strange to the layman that, aside from small boats, wood is used to the extent it is in combat ships, but no adequate substitute for wood has yet been found for weather decks and for flight decks. It is required over the steel plates to keep the temperatures in living spaces more equable, to afford better footing in rough weather, and to facilitate topside access for damage control crews during intense fires when steel may reach extremely high temperatures. Teakwood is considered the ace of all decking woods, and for carriers of the Iowa class a total of 110,000 board feet are needed.

Particular attention was given to the marine borers; the several species of these which attack wood bottoms, piles, and other submerged wooden structures cause an estimated 100 million dollars damage a year in the United States and its possessions. A survey of the distribution of borers in the Pacific islands and on the Atlantic coast

was described at the meeting and advances in protective measures were discussed. The Industrial Test Laboratory at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard reported that the addition of silica to the glue used in plywood offered excellent protection when plywood was used as sheathing on wooden vessels. While many of the projects were of an empirical nature, the need for more fundamental research, especially in the life history of the borers, was stressed. A project of this type has been undertaken by the University of Miami in an attempt to determine the exact stage of wood penetration and also the physiological nature of the action of creosote and other preservatives on the borers.

Although no new preservatives were reported, search and experimentation continues and methods of application and the life span of accepted preservatives are under constant study. The rapidly diminishing supply of lumber in this country would place this commodity in a critical position in the event of another war, and methods of expanding the use of what is available and extending its life after it is fabricated deserve continued research.

## NRC News

The Pacific Science Board has made the assignments and field arrangements for the Scientific Investigations in Micronesia Program, an extension of the 1947-49 Coordinated Investigation of Micronesian Anthropology. This new program is financed by the Office of Naval Research in cooperation with the Pacific Science Board and institutions with which the participants are associated.

Nine scientists have been selected and a number have already left for the field. *I. Dyen*, associate professor of Malayan Languages of Yale University, will continue the linguistic work that he started under the CIMA Program on the island of Yap. Dr. Dyen will also spend a short time in Ponape, where he will assist in clarifying certain problems

involved in the new orthography evolved from Paul L. Garvin's linguistic work there under the CIMA Program. It is expected that this new orthography will be adopted for general use. *Ann Mercedith*, of Radcliffe College, who has been studying social anthropology at Harvard University, expects to study the relationship between the sociocultural system and the socialization process among the native peoples in the Truk area. *Sidney Glassman*, of the University of Oklahoma, will conduct a botanical survey of the island of Ponape with a view to preparing a flora of Ponape. *Irwin Lane*, of the University of Hawaii, will make a botanical survey in the Palaus during a four-month period in which he will study in particular the orchids of that area. He expects to base his operations at the Pacific War Memorial Field Station in Koror, which is being operated by Peter J. R. Hill, the resident naturalist for the station. *F. R. Fosberg*, research associate in the Department of Biology of Catholic University, will make a four-to-five-month study of plant ecology in the Marianas, with special emphasis on environmental factors affecting the distribution of island species. Dr. Fosberg will be engaged in research for the Quartermaster Corps of the Department of the Army. *Donald Anderson*, of Honolulu, Hawaii, will accompany Dr. Fosberg as a botanical assistant. *M. W. de Laubenfels*, professor of zoology of the University of Hawaii, will conduct a sponge survey, during a period of four months, of certain island areas of the Marshalls, and particularly of Ailinglapalap, as well as of the Truk and Palau areas of the Caroline Islands. *Eugenie Clark*, of the American Museum of Natural History, will conduct a four-month research project on the taxonomy of plectognath fishes in the Palaus. She will base her operations at the Field Station of the Pacific War Memorial in Koror. *Robert K. Enders*, professor of zoology at Swarthmore College, will spend a period of four months on the island of Saipan and other islands of the Trust Territory, during which he will carry out

ecological studies with special reference to introduced races of rats. Dr. Enders will also conduct a general ecological survey to determine the best locality for future biological research on specific problems.

In addition to this special program, the Pacific Science Board has sent two scientific investigators, supported financially by the Office of Naval Research, into the Trust Territory to conduct further research on a giant African snail, *Achatina fulica*. *Albert R. Mead*, assistant professor of zoology at the University of Arizona, and *Yoshio Kondo*, of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, will devote close to four months in the Marianas and Palaus to the study of factors which might be helpful in the control of the giant african snail, and will make a survey collection of land shells on selected small islands.

The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council met May 6-7, and heard reports from chairmen of its fifteen committees. The board reaffirmed its position favoring extension of the compulsory enrichment of corn products in those states where corn is a substantial dietary constituent. The board also went on record in favor of rice enrichment, but since rice is not a significant dietary constituent in the U. S. except among isolated population groups, compulsory enrichment was not advocated.

At the request of the U. S. Public Health Service, the board stated its position with regard to the addition of vitamins A and D to skim milk and the use of ascorbic acid in milk for prevention of oxidative off-flavor. The board has continued to adhere to its policy of recommending additions of vitamins to foods only when there is a distinct public health benefit to be attained. The board has no objection to additions of vitamins to milk in reasonable amounts for special purposes, provided the practice encourages consumption of milk and does not increase the cost or reduce the availability of milk or its products to those who need it most.

The board acted to place on a standing basis its *ad hoc* Committee on Food Protection, which has been

reviewing the public health implications of pesticide residues and chemicals being added to foods for special purposes. H. E. Longenecker, dean of the Graduate School, University of Pittsburgh, is chairman of this committee.

New members of the board, nominated for appointment by the NRC under a rotational plan are: W. J. Darby, Vanderbilt University; N. B. Guerrant, Pennsylvania State College; D. B. Hand, New York Agricultural Experiment Station; Ancel Keys, University of Minnesota; O. H. Lowry, Washington University; and R. J. Williams, University of Texas Medical School. These men replaced C. A. Elvehjem, W. E. Krauss, L. A. Maynard, W. H. Sebrell, H. C. Sherman, F. F. Tisdall, and R. R. Williams. Frank G. Boudreau, executive director of the Milbank Memorial Fund, was reappointed chairman of the board for the coming year.

**The NRC Committee on Public Health Aspects of Brucellosis** met in Washington, May 9-10, with Wesley W. Spink from the University of Minnesota presiding.

The objectives of this committee are: to prepare definitive statements on the problem of brucellosis in animals and its control; to define diagnostic criteria for human brucellosis and to make recommendations for its prevention and treatment; and to encourage research on brucellosis.

A report prepared for the committee by L. M. Hutchings, C. K. Mingle, and W. L. Boyd, "Eradication and Control of Brucellosis in Animals," was revised and approved for publication by the committee. It is hoped that this report will aid the efforts of those groups attempting to resolve the problem of brucellosis in domestic animals.

One of the major problems pertaining to human brucellosis is the standardization of diagnostic procedures among various laboratories. A questionnaire, responded to by 45 states, the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces, revealed a marked lack of uniformity in carrying out tests. In view of the situation, the committee is preparing a statement on recommended laboratory procedures for the diagnosis of

human brucellosis. In this connection, six to ten state laboratories were to be requested to cooperate in carrying out standardized agglutination tests.

The committee is cooperating in the plans for a symposium on brucellosis, to be held in Washington this fall, and also for an Inter-American Congress on Brucellosis, to be held in Washington in the fall of 1950.

## Deaths

**Ray Lyman Wilbur**, 74, president of Stanford University for 27 years and its chancellor since 1943, died June 26. Dr. Wilbur was U. S. Secretary of the Interior under President Hoover and served as president both of the American Academy of Medicine and the American Medical Association.

**Birbal Sahni**, 58, professor of botany and dean of the Faculty of Science at Lucknow University, India, died April 9. A fellow of the Royal Society, Dr. Sahni had recently been elected to preside over the International Botanical Congress next year.

**Irving S. Lowen**, 38, associate professor of physics at the Washington Square College of New York University, died on April 23. Dr. Lowen was research associate with the Manhattan Project and an associate of the National Defense Research Committee during the war, and later a consultant of Brookhaven National Laboratory and director of the U. S. Navy project on cosmic rays.

**Preston Strong Millar**, 69, president of Electrical Testing Laboratories, Inc., died June 17 at his summer home at Glen Spey, New York. Mr. Millar was one of the founders of the Illuminating Engineering Society, its president in 1913, and the recipient of its gold medal in 1945.

**The ionosphere is being explored** by lightweight rockets, which carry a hundred pounds of recording instruments into the upper atmos-

phere. In Navy tests at the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico the Aerobee rockets reached a velocity of 4,100 feet per second in about 45 seconds, and attained an altitude of over 70 miles. The Aerobee is about 20 feet long and 15 inches in diameter, and weighs 1,665 pounds. It was designed and constructed for the Navy Bureau of Ordnance by the Aerojet Engineering Corporation of Azusa, California, under the technical guidance of the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University.

Data which the instruments gather in flight are obtained by means of radio transmission from a telemetering set, and by recovery of photographic film from the wreckage. Impact shock in landing has been reduced by explosive separation of the tailfin structure from the rocket during descent and the film, which is contained in heavy metal casing, is recovered intact.

Through study of the ionosphere, scientists hope to answer questions regarding the composition of the atmosphere at high altitudes, cosmic rays, and the sun's spectrum.

**The ancient city of Madaba**, which served as a diocesan center for Christians from about 300 to 600 A. D., will be the subject of an archaeological survey this summer. A. Henry Detweiler, professor of architecture at Cornell University, left June 26 to make a topographical study of the city, which has not been thoroughly explored since 1901. The site previously yielded the Madaba Map of Palestine—a mosaic on a church floor which showed how the country looked during the Byzantine period. Professor Detweiler, in addition to surveying Madaba, will serve as director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem during the summer.

The professional library of the late **Burton E. Livingston** has been given to the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Dr. Livingston was professor of plant physiology and forest ecology and director of the Laboratory of Plant Physiology at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.