

THE SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER

A Weekly Summary of Current Science

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PUPIN, IMMIGRANT INVENTOR, HEADS AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

Prof. Michael Idvorsky Pupin was born in 1858 in Idvor in what was then Hungary, and what is now Jugoslvaia. Today he is leader of America's scientists. This scientist, professor electro-mechanics at Columbia University, was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Pupin is one of the few among our foremost men of science who are as well known to the public as they are in scientific circles. His recent autobiography "From Immigrant to Inventor" tells the romantic story of how the Serbian shepherd lad was drawn to the land of Franklin and Lincoln, how he found here the opportunity for his talents as an electrician, and how he repaid the debt to this country by devising the weighted telephone wire by which the people of California can talk to the people of New England.

Thoughts of his own home town mingled with those of the future of American science, when Dr. Pupin, learned of his selection.

In a statement to Science Service, he said:

"The honor conferred upon me by the American Association for the Advancement of Science is much higher than anything that I ever expected to reach. What will Idvor, my native Servian peasant village, say when it hears that I am the president of the largest scientific association in the largest country in the world? I see in this distinguished honor a hearty endorsement of the doctrine which maintains that American science is called upon to lead and to illuminate the path of material and spiritual progress of our American democracy. This doctrine was born in the minds of Joseph Henry, John W. Draper, Andrew White, and Augustus Rowland, and I have never missed an opportunity to preach it and to give it my enthusiastic support. The honor conferred upon me encourages me in the belief that this is the doctrine of American science today."

Dr. W. J. Humphreys, professor of meteorology at the U. S. Weather Bureau and the country's leading authority on the physics of the weather, was selected as general secretary for the next four years. Of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Burton E. Livingston of Johns Hopkins University was re-elected permanent secretary. J. L. Wirt of the Carnegie Institution of Washington was made treasurer. New members of the executive committee selected were: Dr. B. M. Duggar of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Dr. Edwin B. Wilson of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary

of the National Research Council, Washington. Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of the Desert Laboratory, Tucson, Ariz., retiring general secretary, were made members of the council.

As vice-presidents and chairmen of the various specialized sections of the American Association, the following were chosen:

Section A, mathematics, Prof. W. H. Roever, Washington University, St. Louis Mo.; section B, physics, Dr. H. M. Randall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; section C, chemistry, Prof. H. P. Cady, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; Section D, astronomy, Dr. A. E. Douglass, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona; section E, geology, Prof. Reginald Aldworth Daly, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; section F, zoology, Prof. H. S. Jennings, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; section G, botany, Prof. R. B. Wylie, Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa; section H, anthropology, Prof. C. B. Davenport, director of the Station for Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.; section I, psychology, Prof. C. R. Seashore, Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa; section K, social and economic sciences, Dr. F. R. Fairchild, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; section L, historical and philological sciences, Dr. W. A. Oldfather, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois; section M, engineering, Prof. F. G. Cottrell, director of the Fixed Nitrogen Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; section N, medical sciences, Prof. A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; section O, agriculture, Prof. Charles V. Piper, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; section Q, education, Prof. Otis W. Caldwell, director of the Lincoln School, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

OFFERINGS OF THE HEAVENS FOR 1925

By Isabel M. Lewis,
U. S. Naval Observatory.

The outstanding event of 1925 - the astronomical treat of the year - will be the total eclipse of the sun on January 24 which will be visible in one of the most densely populated parts of the United States. The path of totality of this eclipse will be about one hundred miles wide and several thousand miles long. It will start at sunrise a little to the east of Red Lake, Minn., sweep over the Great Lakes and part of Canada to Niagara Falls and then pass diagonally across New York state and northern Pennsylvania to Connecticut, Rhode Island, Long Island and the Sound and the islands south of Cape Cod. After last touching land at Nantucket it will sweep onward across the North Atlantic, cutting the lanes of transatlantic travel, to a point midway between the Orkney and Faroe Islands where it will leave the earth at sunset. This eclipse will take place early in the morning in the United States and Canada, in the middle of the day in mid-Atlantic, and at sunset in the British Isles and western Europe. A greater or less partial eclipse will take place over all of the central and eastern part of the North American continent, all of Central America, and northern part of South America, practically all of the North Atlantic Ocean, Central and Western Europe and northwestern Africa.

A second eclipse of the sun, an annular eclipse, will take place on July 20 in the South Pacific. An annular eclipse receives its name from the fact that at greatest eclipse the moon covers all of the sun except a very thin annulus or ring of light. The relative positions of sun and moon are such at the time that the disk of the moon fails to completely cover the sun. This eclipse will be visible as a partial eclipse from a number of islands of the south Pacific and the sun will rise