

## BIOGRAPHY

**Morgan Heads Academy**

Prof. T. H. Morgan of Columbia University, one of the world's foremost authorities on hereditary processes and evolution in animals, was elected president of the National Academy of Sciences at the annual meeting of this distinguished body of scientists in Washington. Dr. F. E. Wright of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who is at present conducting brilliant researches on the material the moon is made of, was chosen as vice-president, and Dr. David E. White of the U. S. Geological Survey was re-elected home secretary.

Three new members were elected to the Academy's governing Council: Prof. George E. Hale of the Mt. Wilson Astronomical Observatory; Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, editor of *Science* and several other leading scientific publications.

At the meeting of the executive board of the National Research Council the following general officers were elected: chairman, Gano Dunn, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, New York City; first vice-chairman, Prof. T. H. Morgan, president-elect of the National Academy of Sciences; second vice-chairman, John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; third vice-chairman, R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

The permanent secretary of the National Research Council, Dr. Vernon Kellogg, and the treasurer of the Research Council, Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, continue in these offices. To replace vacancies occurring in the membership at large of the executive board, James F. Norris, professor of Organic Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; F. R. Moulton, professor of Mathematics, University of Chicago, and president of the Sigma Xi, Chicago; and John R. Freeman, consulting engineer, Providence, were elected.

This year's award of the Agassiz Medal of the National Academy of Sciences has been voted to Dr. Max Weber, emeritus professor of zoology of the University of Amsterdam, internationally recognized as an authority on marine mammals and fish, and for many years engaged in oceanographic work. The Agassiz

Medal is awarded for outstanding research in oceanography.

Science News-Letter, May 7, 1927

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**Edison Elected To Academy**

Thomas Alva Edison, famous American inventor, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, America's most eminent scientific organization, at its recent meeting in Washington.

Other elections include:

Eric Temple Bell, mathematician of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.

Charles Peter Berkey, geologist of the American Museum of Natural History, who has recently made investigations of the ancient rock layers of Asia.

William Bowie, chief of the division of geodesy, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, an authority on the earth's crust, especially isostasy.

Arthur Holly Compton, physicist of the University of Chicago, who discovered the important relation between the wave-length and the reflection of radiation that is called the "Compton effect."

Benjamin Minge Duggar, botanist of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, internationally known for his work on plant diseases and plant physiology.

Rollins Adams Emerson, geneticist of Cornell University, who is famous for his work on the breeding of plants.

Herbert McLean Evans, anatomist of the University of California, who discovered the fertility vitamin, E.

William King Gregory, anatomist and anthropologist of the American Museum of Natural History, one of the leading authorities on the evolution of man and related animals.

Edwin Powell Hubble, brilliant young astronomer of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, Calif., who made known the "island universes" that lie at vast distances in outer space.

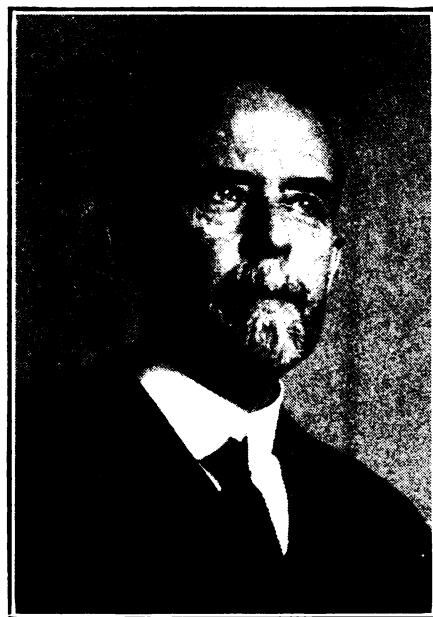
Claude Silbert Hudson, chemist at the U. S. Bureau of Standards.

Alfred Newton Richards, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania and associate editor of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Francis Peyton Rous, physiologist of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City, who has done fundamental work on the nature of cancer.

Albert Sauveur, professor of metallurgy at Harvard University and

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THOMAS HUNT MORGAN

**Interpreter of Chromosomes**

The election of Prof. Morgan to the presidency of the National Academy of Sciences, the highest honor which can be conferred by votes of American scientists, marks a high point in a most distinguished career. For a quarter of a century he and his numerous pupils have been making biological history at Columbia University.

When Gregor Mendel sought a key to the riddle of evolution, the question of the manner of the transmission of hereditary characters, he found — what had not been suspected before and was not after him, either, for a generation—that these characters were not continuous, boundaryless, blending things, but sharply distinguishable units that could stand up and be counted and dealt with statistically. But Mendel worked and died without any suspicion of how these units are marshalled and marched about in the divisions of the reproductive cells of plants and animals. It remained for Prof. Morgan and his school to take a foremost part in the discovery of the correlation between the shifting and rearrangement of hereditary characters and the shifting and rearrangement of the minute bits of protoplasm called chromosomes within the living cells. What the great Austrian began the American carried to conclusion.

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