

DR. C. A. MERCIER, physician for mental diseases to Charing Cross Hospital, and a distinguished authority upon mental diseases and related subjects, died on September 2 at sixty-seven years of age.

THE death is announced of Dr. William Smith Greenfield, professor of pathology and clinical medicine in the University of Edinburgh from 1881 to 1912.

THE Bureau of Mines Experiment Station at Pittsburgh will be dedicated with suitable ceremonies on September 29 and 30 and October 1. The exercises carried out in connection with the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce include an excursion to the experimental mine near Bruceton, and first-aid and mine-rescue contests.

THE seventh meeting of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of the Sciences was held at Bilbao from September 7 to 12. There will be eight sections. The French Association for the Advancement of Science and corresponding bodies in Great Britain, Italy and other nations, have been invited to send delegates.

THE South African Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual meeting from July 7 to 12 inclusive, the first three days in Kingwilliamstown, the last three in East London. Wm. Flint, D.D., librarian of the Union of South Africa Parliament, was this year's president. Dr. I. B. Pole Evans, D.Sc., chief phytopathologist to the Union government was elected to succeed him. The outstanding feature of the meeting was a paper by Dr. A. Pyper, M.D., of Bethal, Transvaal, on "Diffraction phenomena in films of blood-cells and in surface-cultures of micro-organisms," in which these phenomena were applied for exact measurement of diameter of blood-cells, etc. The total attendance of members of the " S_2A_3 " (as the association is called in colloquial speech in South Africa) was over 110.

AUTHORITY has been granted for the killing of 1,000 three-year-old seals on St. Paul Island this fall for food for the natives, and to increase the take of 4-year-olds on St. George Is-

land from 300 to 500 in the current season. Killing of 6-year-olds and over will also proceed less vigorously on St. George Island, as proper proportions between the different age classes on that island are being more nearly attained. The above modifications in the quota have been made upon recent telegraphic recommendations of employees in charge at the Pribilof Islands.

PARTICULARS respecting the British government competition for the construction of aeroplanes and seaplanes on the lines of increased safety are given in *Nature*. The following prizes are offered: For aeroplanes of small type: First prize, £10,000; second prize, £4,000, and third prize £2,000. For large aeroplanes: First prize, £20,000; second prize, £8,000, and third prize, £4,000. For seaplanes: First prize, £10,000; second prize, £4,000, and third prize, £2,000. The latest date for entries is December 31 next. Sir H. H. Shephard has instituted a memorial to his son, the late Brigadier-General G. S. Shephard, in the shape of prizes for members of the Royal Air Force for essays relating to aviation. This year the prizes are to be awarded for essays on "Sea and Fleet Reconnaissance" and "Aerial Navigation and Pilotage." The administration of the annual competitions is to be carried out by the Air Council.

HYDROBIOLOGISTS and others interested in the study of bottom fauna may now obtain, made to order in the United States, a quantitative bottom-sampler as used by Peterson in recent investigations at the Danish Biological Station. These machines are being built by a competent and responsible house in Illinois, whose name and address may be obtained by writing the State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois. One machine is already in successful operation at the Illinois Biological Station, and a second is being made for another Illinois institution.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Lord Strathcona legacy to Yale University, which amounts to about \$600,000 will

be used as follows: Two professorships in the graduate school will be established, and several fellowships founded, and a memorial building, costing about \$250,000, will be built.

JULIUS ROSENWALD, of Chicago, has offered six scholarships of \$1,200 each for negro graduates of American medical schools who desire to take post-graduate work in pathology, bacteriology, physiology, pharmacology or physiological chemistry. Appointments in 1920 will be made by a committee comprising: Dr. William H. Welch, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, chairman; Dr. David L. Edsall, dean of the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, dean of the medical department, University of Michigan. Abraham Flexner, secretary of the General Education Board, will be secretary of the committee.

THE trustees of Vassar College have announced an increase in salaries ranging from 50 per cent. in the lowest grade to 12½ per cent. for full professors. It applies to all teachers who have served the college a year or more.

THE salaries of professors and other members of the teaching force of the University of Mississippi have been uniformly raised on a scale of about fifty per cent.

THE department of anatomy at the Johns Hopkins Medical School has been organized as follows: Lewis H. Weed, professor of anatomy; Florence R. Sabin, professor of histology; George W. Corner, associate professor of anatomy; Charles C. Macklin, associate in anatomy; Robert S. Cunningham, associate in anatomy; Chester H. Heuser, associate in anatomy; Jean Firket, instructor in anatomy; William A. McIntosh, assistant in anatomy.

WILLIAM McDUGALL, reader in mental philosophy in Oxford University, has been elected professor of psychology at Harvard University to fill the chair vacant by the death of Hugo Münsterberg.

DR. HERMAN MORRIS ADLER, formerly assistant professor of psychiatry in Harvard University, has been appointed professor of

criminology and head of the department of social hygiene, medical jurisprudence and criminology in the medical college of the University of Illinois.

LIEUTENANT SAMPSON K. BARRETT, U. S. N. R. F., who served as electrical officer on the dreadnaught *Wyoming* with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, has been discharged from active service to accept an appointment as assistant professor of electrical engineering at New York University.

PROFESSOR F. B. PADDOCK, state entomologist of Texas, has accepted the position as state apiarist of Iowa and as associate professor in the department of zoology and entomology in the Iowa State College, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of F. Eric Millen, who took charge of the apicultural work in the Ontario Agricultural College on July 1.

DR. T. G. YUNCKER, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been appointed assistant professor of biology at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. He will have charge of the botanical work.

DR. OTTO STUHLMAN, JR., associated with the department of physics at the State University of Iowa for the period of the war, has accepted an assistant professorship in physics at West Virginia University.

VICTOR E. NELSON, associate in chemistry, Johns Hopkins University, has accepted a position as assistant professor in charge of physiological chemistry at the Iowa State College.

DR. FRANCIS M. VAN TUYL, associate professor of geology and mineralogy in the Colorado School of Mines, has been appointed professor and head of the department of geology and mineralogy in that institution.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE CIVIL POPULATION OF FRANCE IN THE WAR-TIME

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the current number of SCIENCE (September 12) just received there are published the figures from