

for himself and the Concilium had opened. But though his sudden and unexpected death has taken him away from this work, no one can believe that men of science will be so lacking in foresight and so blind to their own interests that the great work which he did and the institution which he founded will be permitted to perish.

Field displayed constantly a deep devotion to principles and while easy to work with and ready to yield where the matter in question was only a difference of opinion, he stood like a rock when what he regarded as fundamental issues were at stake. When the project of preparing a general bibliography of science was developed by the Royal Society of London, backed with large subsidies and immense prestige through its official governmental affiliations, the directorship was offered to Field through Sir Michael Foster. It was, however, set as a *condicio sine qua non* that the decimal system of notation should be abandoned in favor of another employing Latin titles. After careful consideration, Field felt that this was a step backward and would introduce confusion. Consequently, he declined the post despite its alluring features. It is interesting to note that despite the immense resources at the disposal of the Royal Society it never published an annual bibliography anything like as complete as that issued by the Concilium and the references came regularly also a year late. So determined was the opposition to his project, however, that pressure was brought upon universities abroad to bring them to cancel subscriptions to the Concilium, and representations were even made to the Smithsonian Institution and to private foundations in this country that the Royal Society regarded it as an unfriendly act to extend help to the Zurich enterprise. In England, Manchester University protested against this attitude and with characteristic independence the *Manchester Guardian* came out in vigorous defense of the Concilium. In this country, Professors Henry Fairfield Osborn, E. L. Mark, C. B. Davenport, and G. H. Parker were vigorous in their defense of the methods and results

of the work done by the Concilium. The American Association for the Advancement of Science made for many years a contribution to the work of the Concilium which, despite the doubts of some members, was taken from the research fund at the urgent request of a large body of working zoologists who asserted emphatically that this institution and its work were the most valuable single adjunct to investigation at the command of the American investigator.

His work won recognition for Field from many sources. He was honorary assistant of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., trustee of the International Institute of Bibliography at Brussels, Belgium, editor of the *Bibliographia Zoologica*, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and had been elected to honorary membership in a long list of prominent scientific societies.

He was married in 1903 in London to Nina Eschwege, who with their four children is still living in Zurich. Two brothers and a sister are residents of Brooklyn.

Few men have devoted themselves so incessantly and unselfishly to the service of others. If he had withdrawn in his own laboratory and had concentrated on his individual researches his unusual mental endowment would unquestionably have produced conspicuous results. He chose rather to devote himself to the improvement of conditions for his fellow workers. He threw himself into this work with all the powers at his command and what he accomplished has been of inestimable service to a multitude of workers.

HENRY B. WARD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WINTHROP ELLSWORTH STONE

THE Associate Alumni of the Massachusetts Agricultural College through their executive committee has adopted the following minute:

Winthrop Ellsworth Stone, an honored member of the class of 1882 of the Massachusetts Agricultural College and since 1900 President of Pur-

due University, lost his life while scaling Mount Eon, a virgin peak in the Canadian Rockies, July 17, 1921.

The Associate Alumni of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, through its executive committee, desire to express and record their appreciation of the fruitful service which Dr. Stone has rendered to education, chemical science and scientific agriculture.

With natural abilities of a high order, he brought to his work scientific training obtained as an undergraduate and graduate student at this college under the guidance of Goessmann, Clark and Stockbridge, as plant pathologist at the noted Valentine Farm, New York, and as a student at the University of Göttingen, where he took his doctorate with Tollens and Victor Meyer. Returning to America in 1888, he became chemist to the Tennessee Experiment Station, a year later accepting a call to the chair of chemistry at Purdue University. It was during this period that he made his principal investigations in the field of agricultural chemistry. After serving for a time as vice-president, he succeeded Dr. Smart as president on the retirement of the latter in 1900. Under his wise and able administration Purdue has attained a leading position among the educational institutions of the country.

He was a lover of manly sports, especially of mountain climbing, the favorite recreation of his later years, and one in which he achieved notable distinction by his ascents of difficult peaks.

Modest and unassuming, yet resolute and resourceful, of unflinching courage, zealous for truth and inspired by lofty ideals, as an educator he stands preeminent among the sons of the college. He will be remembered with high regard, pride and affection by those whose lives were enriched by his friendship, and as one who shed luster on his alma mater.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR 1920

THE Department of Commerce announces that the Census Bureau's annual report on mortality statistics, which will be issued shortly, shows 1,142,578 deaths as having occurred in 1920 within the death registration area of continental United States, representing a death rate of 13.1 per 1,000 population as compared with 12.9 in 1919, which was the lowest rate recorded in any year since the registration area was established in 1900.

The death registration area (exclusive of

the Territory of Hawaii) in 1920 comprised 34 states, the District of Columbia and 16 registration cities in nonregistration states, with a total estimated population on July 1 of 87,486,713, or 82.2 per cent. of the estimated population of the United States. The state of Nebraska was added to the registration area in 1920, so that at present the only states not in the area are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The figures for the territory of Hawaii will appear in the report, but they are not included in this summary.

The death rate from pneumonia increased from 123.5 per 100,000 in 1919 to 137.3 in 1920. For chronic diseases of the heart the rate increased from 131.0 to 141.9; for cancer, from 80.5 to 83. Some of the other diseases for which the rate increased are whooping cough, measles, cerebral hemorrhage, congenital debility and malformations, puerperal fever, scarlet fever and appendicitis. The fatalities caused by automobile accidents and injuries show an increase from 9.4 per 100,000 in 1919 to 10.4 in 1920.

A marked decrease is shown in the death rate from tuberculosis, which was 114.2 in 1920 as compared with 125.6 in 1919; also in the death rate from influenza, 71.0 in 1920 as against 98.8 the year before. The death rate from suicide declined from 11.4 in 1919 to 10.2 in 1920. There was a decline also in the rate for typhoid fever and in that for accidental drowning.

THE MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION

THE British Mount Everest Committee has communicated to the London *Times* the following telegram, dated October 10, at Phari Dzong, from Colonel Howard Bury:

The route to the summit of Mount Everest by the northeast arête has been found to be practicable.

On September 22, six members of the expedition, with 26 coolies, arrived at the col at the head of the Kharta valley, camping at 22,500 feet.

On the following day, Mallory, Bullock and