

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

Wheeler encamped on the glacier below the north col.

On the 24th they ascended the north col, connecting Everest with the north peak, to 23,000 ft., finding the northeast arête quite possible, but they were driven back by a furious northwesterly gale, lasting four days, with intense cold, and making all climbing impossible.

All the party are in good health. The reconnaissance of Mount Everest is now completed.

The *Times* writes:

The expedition started from Darjeeling on May 18 and 19, and, taking its way through the switch-back mountains of Sikkim, entered Tibet and then made westward to Tingri Dzong—north-northwest of Everest, which place was made the base for the exploration of the north and northwestern faces of the mountain. The utmost care had been taken in the fitting out of the expedition, but transport difficulties soon developed, for the mules supplied by the Indian Government broke down completely. Fortunately, Colonel Howard Bury was able to supply this deficiency locally.

The work of exploring the northwest approaches to Everest began on June 23, and on July 3 Messrs. Mallory and Bullock succeeding in climbing a peak over 23,000 ft. high. But means of ascent of Everest itself on this side proved utterly lacking—terrible precipices, descending 10,000 ft. on to a huge glacier, blocked the way. Even supposing that the rock summits at 20,000 ft. were gained—which seemed just possible—hard rock-climbing for the remaining 4,000 ft. was out of the question at that altitude.

As the north and west approaches had proved impracticable, camp was moved up Kharta at the end of July, and August devoted to reconnoitering the east side of the mountain. Here, again, disappointment awaited the climbers, for, as on the north and northwest, the eastern approaches were found to be guarded by huge precipices.

As a last resort the climbers then determined to follow up the Kharta-Tsangpo, a glacier stream, to its source, and it is in this direction that success has at length been obtained. A reconnaissance early in August had shown the climbers a hitherto unknown valley which seemed to offer a practical route, and they reached a col nearly 23,000 ft. up looking on to the north ridge of Everest. The weather, however, had broken, and the climbers had to return to Kharta for a rest. They left Kharta again on August 31, and the telegram

received to-day from Colonel Howard Bury tells of the happy ending to their endeavours.

Apart from this discovery of a way up the mountain, over 9,000 square miles of new territory have been surveyed.

THE LABORATORY OF THE MIAMI AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

STUDENTS of marine life and especially those interested in fishes will be gratified to know of the establishment of a seaside laboratory by the Miami Aquarium Association at Miami Beach, Florida. The laboratory occupies the second floor in the south wing of the aquarium building and has accommodations for about ten investigators. It is provided with running fresh and salt water, with the usual laboratory outfit, and with reagent and photographic rooms. Materials for study are abundantly supplied from the large stock of the aquarium and from the neighboring waters. The aquarium runs a fleet of collecting boats including gasoline launches and three sea-going vessels: the *Allisoni*, moved by sail and gasoline, provided with live wells, and adapted to cruises of several days' length; *L'Apache*, a seventy-foot cruiser; and the *Sea Horse*, an eighty-five-foot, high-power cruising yacht just put into commission. In this way collecting trips may be made to the shoals in Biscayne Bay, the reefs in the open ocean, the Gulf Stream three miles distant, and to the Florida Keys and the Bahamas.

During a sojourn at the laboratory from the latter part of last May till the middle of July a great variety of interesting forms were met with. *Physalia*, the Portuguese man-of-war, with its symbiotic fish *Nomeus*, was abundant in the shore waters. During the latter part of June it was actively reproducing. At the same time the large rhizostomous jelly-fish *Stomolophus* was to be seen in great numbers off the coast. On the bank in Biscayne Bay the spiny sea-urchin *Diadema* and the giant conch *Strombus* were common. Spiny lobsters were always obtainable in great numbers. During July the eggs of the loggerhead turtle were hatching and sets of these were brought into the laboratory and studied there. But above all the region is immensely rich in the great variety of its highly colored, tropical fishes.