

death rates at the earlier ages. Again it would be interesting to know whether and to what extent the indicated superiority of the southern females at the advanced ages is due to overstatement of advanced ages.

It should be stated that no scheme of smoothing of data was employed in computing the death rates given in the tables above and that the computation of each death rate was essentially independent of that of any other. In the light of this fact the absence of significant incongruities and the general agreement of the various numerical results at the different ages of all twenty mortality tables is rather remarkable. It is only hoped that the evidences of overstatement of advanced ages—and the northern states are not wholly beyond criticism in this respect—will gradually disappear. It should also be added that since all of these mortality tables were constructed from the statistics of a single year (1920) the results given above are offered merely for purposes of comparison and *general* conclusions.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SAFETY CODE FOR AUTOMOBILE BRAKES

A NATIONAL safety code for automobile brakes and brake testing will be developed under the auspices of the American Engineering Standards Committee as the result of the decision of a special committee consisting of representatives of the American Automobile Association, the Motor Vehicle Conference Committee, the Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the United States Bureau of Standards, the United States War Department, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Underwriters Laboratories, the Safety Group of the American Engineering Standards Committee and David Beecroft of the Class Journal Company. David Van Schaack, vice-president of the National Safety Council, was chairman of the committee.

The American Engineering Standards Committee has asked the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Bureau of Standards and the American Automobile Association to act as

joint sponsors for the development of this code. The actual work of formulating the code will be carried on by a sectional committee representative of all the interests concerned with the problems of automobile brakes either as administrative officers, users, producers or general public.

The need for a national safety code covering methods of testing brakes and also those elements of brake or brake lining construction which are accident factors is emphasized by the increasing tendency toward state and municipal legislation on this subject. Several states already have brake testing laws and in a number of other states such laws are being drafted. There is, however, no agreement at present as to what is a safe braking distance or what constitutes a satisfactory braking test. Until a national safety code has been developed and generally accepted the motorist driving from one city to another or from state to state will have no assurance that brakes approved in one city will not bring a fine in the next town or state.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE Australian National Research Council has issued a report of its annual meeting held in Sydney in August last which is summarized in *Nature*. The council was formed for national and international purposes in January 1921 by the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, to which body it has to submit a full report of its work and proceedings on the occasion of each meeting of the Association. At the meeting Sir David Orme Masson was elected president of the council in succession to Sir Edgeworth David. Resolutions were passed urging the need for the State endowment of systematic research in the Pacific islands under Australian control, for research work in Australia in respect of refrigeration, and for laboratories to carry out industrial investigation and research. Offers of co-operation with the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry in measures for furthering these objects were made, and preliminary steps taken for the inauguration of a publicity campaign for the purpose of securing that the functions, operations and financial needs of the

Institute may be more fully appreciated by the Commonwealth Government, the Legislature and the public generally. The council has decided to ask the Australian Association to regard it as a fully constituted body free to conduct its own affairs subject to instructions from the International Research Council. The first issue of *Australian Science Abstracts*, published by the Australian Research Council as a quarterly journal of abstracts of papers by Australian scientific workers, appeared on August 1, 1922. An invitation has been issued by the Commonwealth Government through the Research Council to the representatives of the Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress to hold the Congress in Australia in 1923.

ENGINEERING LIBRARY FOR DENVER

Scientific circles will recognize the importance of the library facilities that have just been opened for engineers and scientific men in the City of Denver.

The Colorado Scientific Society has had a long history and has been the medium through which many discoveries, especially along the line of geology and mineralogy, have been announced. In the past few years this organization has not been as active and its financial means have not enabled it to carry on work to the same degree as formerly.

It has been given quarters for a number of years by the State of Colorado in the State Museum Building, and many of its museum specimens have been cared for by the State Bureau of Mines. Through exchanges and through purchase and through gifts from members, it had acquired a library especially valuable in transactions of learned societies, in scientific exchanges and in engineering books.

The engineers and men of applied science felt the increased need of a library for reference. There is no important library of this kind available for practically a thousand miles. The Rocky Mountain region has a large number of different lines of science represented by men of ability, but has lacked these facilities.

The various engineering societies, especially the twelve which are grouped together and form the Colorado Engineering Council, have been active in pushing the idea of the union of forces and starting a library of this character.

The State of Colorado passed a few years since a law requiring all practicing engineers to register and pay a license fee. The funds from this source have amounted to some \$15,000. The cooperation of this board was obtained and these funds made available for the purchase of books, which could be done under State laws, and the books used in connection with the books of the Scientific Society and other books, the title remaining in the State.

The Society of Architects which had a fund of some thousands of dollars, has made their fund available for this technical library. Many books have been given by individual engineers who find it unnecessary to keep in their private collections so many works if they are available to them at any time in a library.

The Denver City Library has assigned room and a technical librarian and takes supervision and general charge of the collection.

The dedication exercises were held on April 7, with representatives from the Scientific Society, engineering professions, city of Denver and the State of Colorado.

This library has some thousands of volumes to start with, and an assured income of several thousand dollars. The prospect is that this will be the most important center for a technical library and applied science between Chicago and the Pacific Coast.

L. G. CARPENTER, *President*.

COLORADO ENGINEERING COUNCIL.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN LECTURES

During the spring and summer lectures are being given on Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p. m. in the lecture hall of the Museum Building as follows:

April 28. "Spring wild flowers," Dr. G. C. Fisher.

April 29. "Pasteur and the founding of bacteriology," Dr. G. M. Reed.

May 5. "Books on gardening," Dr. J. H. Barnhart.

May 6. "Bees and bee culture," Professor G. C. Norton.

May 12. Nature talks—II. "Rocks," Dr. W. A. Murrill. (Exhibition of spring flowers, May 12 and 13).

May 13. "Daffodils and tulips," Mr. K. R. Boynton.