

reading public opinion. And he could always wait. If his carefully matured project for some new public health activity which science and the time seemed to have made feasible went shipwrecked on legislative stupidity or on political ambitions or on professional jealousies, he never railed but serenely sought some other way or patiently bided his time awaiting, or more commonly, assisting, the slow growth of mass enlightenment.

Under his leadership the policies and organization of the Health Department of the State of New York have steadily developed until at the time of his death it was one of the most effective ministers to the public health in the United States and one of the foremost in the world.

It was obvious when the Board of Scientific Directors of the Rockefeller Institute was being formed that his intimate knowledge of the domain of public health, practical medicine and the new outlooks in research which were so inspiring at that time should lead to the selection of Dr. Biggs as one of the men to initiate the new venture. His interest in the progress and successes of the Institute has been keen. He has been most helpful in the deliberations of the board as well as in the adjustments of the relationship of the Institute to outside phases of practical medicine and research.

He was wise in counsel, he was ready in service, he was a good comrade; we shall miss him on this board.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXPERIMENT STATIONS IN FINLAND¹

AGRICULTURAL experimentation in Finland is now being reorganized under a law passed this year, putting this work on a permanent basis. Research is now being conducted mainly by eight institutions. Of these the Central Agricultural Experiment Station situated at Dickursby, Anas, about 10 miles from Helsingfors, is operated by the government. It is organized into departments of plant cultivation, agricultural chemistry and physics, biology of domestic animals, plant bacteriology and diseases, and agricultural entomology. Each department is under the direction of a professor of the University of Helsingfors, and the staff also includes an assistant and a clerk with university training. Besides comparative vegetable tests, plant breeding is carried on, special attention being given to the breeding of oats. Many students of the agricultural department of the university are given training each year.

The Government Bureau for the Examination of Butter and other Edible Fats is situated at Hango. Its principal work consists in the examining of butter to be exported from the country, but it also conducts

investigations of other food fats. It has a staff of dairy experts and chemists.

The Economic Investigational Bureau of the Agricultural Administration at Helsingfors conducts inquiries based on data procured from several hundred privately owned farms. The chief object is to furnish information in regard to the costs of agricultural production and the profitableness of various sized farms in different parts of the country.

The agro-geological section of the Geological Commission, also at Helsingfors, conducts investigations in regard to soils and prepares agro-geological maps for the different sections. This institution is maintained with state funds.

The Swamp Cultivating Experimental Station of Lettensue, about 75 miles north of Helsingfors, is owned by the Suomen Suoviljelysyhdistys (Finland Swamp Reclamation Society), which receives financial aid from the state. The station conducts experiments in the cultivating, ditching and fertilizing of swamps. Similar stations are located at Ilmajoki, about 270 miles north of Helsingfors, where special attention is given to pasture studies on peat bogs, and at Tohmajärvi, about 417 miles east of Helsingfors.

The Plant Breeding Station of Tammisto at Malm, about seven miles from Helsingfors, is owned by the Keskusosuusliika Hankkija (Hankkija Cooperative Society). Its work consists in the breeding of the more important plants, and it is under the direction of a trained specialist.

In addition to the foregoing, the cattle breeding societies operating in Finland and receiving state aid conduct, in connection with the keeping of records of purebred stock, investigations in regard to the heredity of domestic animals. Of these societies the most important are the Society for the Breeding of Ayrshires at Helsingfors, the West Finnish Society for the Breeding of Domestic Animals at Karkku (near Tammerfors), and the East Finnish Society for the Breeding of Domestic Animals at Kuopio.

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

ACCORDING to the London *Times*, the report of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, for 1921-22, which has recently been issued, contains information which will be of value to the agricultural community. Perhaps the most significant remark in the whole report is contained in a comment on the expenditure and cash returns per acre of the ground cultivated by the station. Profits are shown in the period from October, 1919, to September, 1920, but thereafter practically every item is a deficit, and it is observed that "from 1920 onwards the financial results are deplorable and show clearly why many of the arable farmers of to-day are in their present position."

¹ From the *Experiment Station Record*.