dent of the plant as a living object than as a subject for minute dissection, and therefore tried to interest his students in that aspect of botany, although recognizing the need for the other and giving instruction in it. Always the practical sides of a problem seemed to interest Dr. Beal. He felt that botany should be truly a handmaid to agriculture. Thus he carried on studies on weeds, the viability of seeds, etc. Yet a scientific discovery, if fundamental, was always able to arouse his enthusiasm, even if its practical aspects were not in the least discernible.

To the end of his long life the botany of the great out-of-doors was Dr. Beal's great delight. Even in his last months, when unable to walk on account of illness, he would have his chair wheeled out-of-doors and would call attention to various things of botanical interest.

Dr. Beal came of Quaker stock and preserved to the end the sterling honesty of action and speech instilled in him by his parents. Laziness he could not abide. He sought no vacations and never could bring himself to "loaf." Thus it was possible for him with no assistance in the greater part of his teaching career to train so many men who have carried forward the torch laid down by him at his death on May 12, 1924. His work lives after him in the many botanists and other scientists for whom he was the inspiration.

ERNST A. BESSEY
MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CENTENARY OF HUXLEY

THE centenary of the birth of Huxley was celebrated on May 4 by the Imperial College of Science and Technology with a lecture by Professor E. B. Poulton, an exhibition in the department of zoology, and a reception given by Lord and Lady Buckmaster. Lord Buckmaster is chairman of the governing body of the college. Mr. Herbert Wright presided and the vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Sir Charles Sherrington.

According to the report in the London *Times*, the lecturer began his address with a message from Sir Ray Lankester, the life-long friend of Huxley. He then discussed the early days of Huxley, and described some of the disappointments that he faced and overcame and some of the obstacles that impeded him when first he began to seek work of a definitely scientific character. The heights that Huxley reached, said Professor Poulton, were attained only by dauntless effort and determination.

The lecturer, continuing, referred to Huxley's keen sense of humor, and described how in admonishing an acquaintance he said: "You do not suffer fools gladly, you gladly make fools suffer." In declining an invitation to a spiritualistic gathering he said that it might all be true, for anything that he knew to the contrary, but he could not get up any interest in the subject, and disembodied gossip had no more interest for him than any other form of gossip. In discussing the controversial side of Huxley's career, Professor Poulton said that in disputes there was never any bitterness or estrangement; difference was never allowed to spread beyond the issue. Though Huxley became so effective a speaker, it was only the result of determination and practice. Before delivering his first lecture he said: "I can now quite understand how it feels to be going to be hanged." The clear and beautiful style of his writing was developed in the same way, and very often he would write an essay half a dozen times before he was satisfied with it. To Huxley Tennyson was the first poet since Lucretius who had understood the drift of science.

Much had been written in the press lately, the lecturer continued, about the need for books on economic subjects, but so far as he knew no reference had been made to Huxley's essays on that subject. Much misery would have been spared to the world if the advice he gave had been followed; he wanted to be remembered as a man who loved the people.

The best of Huxley's work, Professor Poulton said, was in his lectures to working men. They were greatly touched by what he did for them, and loved him for it. The great thing in his career was his defense of Darwin, leading on to the wider subject of his defense of freedom of thought. The lecturer discussed the weight of the traditional beliefs that lay in the path of the development of scientific inquiry at the time when Huxley was at the height of his career. No doubt his hard fight for a principle gave pain to many, but he never intentionally gave pain nor flippantly attacked the beliefs of others, and the privilege of the present freedom that we enjoy to pursue scientific investigations is due more to Huxley than to anybody else.

The chairman, in his speech, said that it was hoped that it might be possible to raise a permanent memorial to Huxley. The exhibition included rare books and a selection of Huxley's drawings in the Huxley Library, and a number of scientific exhibits elsewhere. There were exhibits and demonstrations by the various departments of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the evening.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AT the closing session of the administrative council of the American Engineering Council in Philadelphia on May 10, support was pledged to the reorganization

of the Department of the Interior by the federal government.

The reorganization would bring about a saving of many millions of dollars, according to the report of the Committee on Government Reorganization, as recorded in the New York *Times*. President Coolidge urged passage at the last session of the Congress of the Mapes bill, which would have provided for two divisions in the Interior Department—one for Public Works and the other for Public Domain. The engineers voted to have a similar bill introduced in the next session of Congress carrying provisions for further reorganization.

All public construction work would be under the Division of Public Works and the control of all public land under the Division of Public Domain.

Under the Mapes bill, offices which spent a total of $107,148,584 in 1924 would be transferred to the Division of Public Works in the Department of the Interior. The estimated expenditures of these offices in 1925 are $118,617,706 and for 1926, $110,955,646. The engineers urged that in addition to these offices, all rivers and harbors work be done under the direction of the Department of the Interior, as well as several other works of less importance. The rivers and harbors work for 1924 cost $72,617,006 and the estimated expenditures for 1925 and 1926 are $75,204,856 and $61,987,448.

The report outlining the plans for the changes in the department was introduced by Gardner H. Williams, of Ann Arbor, Mich., chairman of the Committee on Government Reorganization.

Upon suggestion of William McClellan, formerly dean of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and recently appointed a member of the Muscle Shoals Commission by President Coolidge, the report was approved, with a statement inserted that army engineers could be used for rivers and harbors work only upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior. That was done to avoid the possibility of use of engineers from the army who were not as capable as civil engineers.

A resolution was passed urging that President Coolidge be asked to transfer the functions of the executive secretary of the Federal Water-Power Commission to the director of the Geological Survey. The resolution includes the following statement:

> The federal government is lagging behind the states in the development of water power. The nation's water power should be developed, and we suggest that a bill be introduced in congress providing adequate funds for the water-resources branch of the Geological Survey so that it can make steam gauges in a nation-wide, orderly way.

THE DOUGLAS SMITH FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

ESTABLISHMENT of the Douglas Smith Foundation for Medical Research, which is to make available to the University of Chicago the income from approximately $1,000,000 as endowment of research in the School of Medicine, was announced on May 20. Securities now valued at $800,000 have already been placed in the hands of officials of the university. The donor, Douglas Smith, a well-known Chicago business man, intends to turn over the remainder of the gift during 1925.

This contribution comes a short time after the breaking of ground for the School of Medicine, which is to be situated between Ellis and Drexel avenues and 58th and 59th streets. On this tract buildings costing more than $4,500,000, for the Albert Merritt Billings Memorial Hospital, the Epstein Dispensary and the departments of surgery, medicine, pathology, physiology and physiological chemistry, are to be erected. The university will then have on the midway an extensive group of buildings for medical instruction and research, in addition to those constituting the Rush Medical College group on the west side. The Douglas Smith Foundation is constituted specifically for payment of salaries of those conducting medical research and for the expenses of this work.

"Mr. Smith's notable contribution," said Harold H. Swift, president of the university board of trustees, "will be applied to the immediate inauguration of research in the School of Medicine. The university is grateful for this gift, which will provide stimulus to our $17,500,000 program for development of other departments of the university."

> The securities which I am handing you are for the establishment of a fund to be held in perpetuity by the University of Chicago as an endowment of its school or schools of medical science for the investigation of the causes, nature, prevention and treatment of disease. Only the net income of the fund is to be used. It is to be expended exclusively in payment of the research stipends or salaries of the members of the staff or fellows of the University of Chicago engaged in medical research, and of expenses directly incident to such research.
>
> I would have preferred that my name be not attached to this gift, but at your request I have agreed that the fund may be known as the Douglas Smith Foundation for Medical Research.

THE SECTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE Section of Social and Economic Sciences (K), of the American Association for the Advancement of