

Herbert Rand, Franklin Gifford, Alice Smith Cowdry, Dr. R. P. Bigelow and Dr. W. H. Rich.

The tablet occupies a place in the main hall of the laboratory building. On it are inscribed the dates of Mr. Edwards's birth and death and the following words:

This memorial to Vinal Nye Edwards is erected by his friends as a mark of their esteem, in recognition of his gifts as a naturalist and of his services to science.

The exercises were held on the lawn between the laboratory and the residence buildings and were well attended by the residents of Woods Hole and associates of the Marine Biological Laboratory as well as by the staff of the Bureau of Fisheries. The presentation address was made by Dr. Linton, who quoted from the many laudatory letters received from well-known American biologists who had known and worked with Vinal Edwards. The speech of acceptance was made by Lewis Radcliffe, deputy commissioner, and the unveiling was by Madison Edwards, a brother of Vinal Edwards.

A CALIFORNIA OIL WELL

DR. FREDERICK P. VICKERY, of the Southern Branch of the University of California, writes that on September 25 the Miley Oil Company's No. 6 well, located at Athens, Los Angeles County, California, reached the climax of a career of record breaking by becoming a producing well at a depth of 7,591 feet.

Some of the records established by this well are as follows: (1) Depth 7,591 feet. The deepest hole ever drilled, as well as (2) deepest oil well in the world. (3) Landed $4\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, No. 15, casing at 7,591 feet. The longest string of pipe ever set. (4) Cemented $4\frac{3}{4}$ through perforations at 7,305. The deepest cement job ever attempted. (5) Took formation cores from depth of 7,570 feet and recovered perfect samples of good oil sand.

The well was drilled with rotary tools in a total of 230 working days, an average of 33 feet per day. The total cost of drilling, including labor, material and overhead, was \$164,000, or \$21.60 per foot.

The following casing was set:

15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, No. 70, cemented at 988 feet.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, No. 36, cemented at 5,289 feet.

4 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, No. 15, landed at 7,591 feet and cemented through perforations at 7,305 feet.

The well is producing about 150 barrels of 37° Be gravity oil per day with 20 per cent. of salt water. A gas lift is used to make the well flow, as pumping was considered impracticable on account of the depth.

THE FIELD MUSEUM EXPEDITION TO MADAGASCAR

A TWO-YEAR expedition to Madagascar, in search of the origins of the races now inhabiting the island, was started on October 15 by Ralph Linton, assistant curator of ethnology of the Field Museum of Natural History. He will work among the descendants of the Fatimite Caliphs who were driven out of Arabia and Egypt in the eighth century, and will also attempt to prove by an exploration of the entire island that it holds many of the oldest features of Malayan culture.

The peoples of Madagascar have long furnished a problem for ethnologists and archeologists. They are of mixed cultures, inclusive of three apparently main elements—Bantu negroes from Africa; the Hovas of Malay stock and a fringe of Arabs all along the coasts, the descendants of the Fatimite Caliphs. These three elements are sub-divided into fifteen or more main tribes which, in turn, are divided again into smaller partially distinctive groups. There are also hints of a pygmy element among the populations.

Mr. Linton, in his two-year stay, will explore the entire island, living with the tribes and making collections of their culture, ceremonials and domestic life which, when made the subject of scientific study, will show the history of the people despite their mixed bloods. The most extensive research will be made among the southern tribes who, despite the advanced stage of French activity on some parts of the island, are almost unknown to white men.

The natives of the island are expert in metal, textile and pottery making, and have for many centuries worked the gold mined on the island. A silk producing moth, unlike the Asiatic worm, is also cultivated. Beautiful cloth and baskets are woven from raffia, a fiber.

Mr. Linton will sail from New York and go first to London. He will spend two weeks in England, visiting and studying the Madagascar material in museums. He will also spend three weeks in similar work in France, sailing from Marseilles on December 10, and arriving in Tamatave, Madagascar, on January 7. Antananarivo, the capital of the island, will be used as the base for the expedition, which will immediately start work in a radius of that city.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. F. HENRY SMITH, professor of natural philosophy at the University of Virginia, celebrated his ninety-sixth birthday on October 14.

THE well-known histologist, Professor Camillo Golgi, of Pavia, recently celebrated his eighty-second birthday.