

During the fall term of 1925 he was granted a leave of absence to carry on geological work for the government in California. It was there that his death occurred, due to complications following an operation for appendicitis. He was to have resumed his work at the college in January of the present year. His untimely death cut short a life which promised much in the field of science.

S. G. BERGQUIST

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

THE following items of scientific interest have been sent to *SCIENCE* by the Russian Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

At the first meeting of the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad in 1926 the following honorary members were elected: Professor August Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm University; Professor Lorentz, of Leyden; Professor Max Planck, of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, and Professor Vito Volterra, president of the International Research Council and of the Italian Academy of Sciences. The following correspondents were also elected: Professor A. A. Ivanov, of the Pulkovo Observatory; Professor A. A. Yakovkin, of the Technological Institute; Professor Arnold Sommerfeld, of Munich; Professor Emil Abderhalden, of Halle; Professor Urbain, of France, and the Professors Glinka and Zelenin, of Leningrad.

The USSR Academy of Sciences has approved the plans submitted by Professor Oldenburg for the organization of several scientific institutions of the USSR in foreign countries. These institutions are intended to serve chiefly as connecting links with the international scientific organizations. Russia had maintained before the revolution several scientific institutions abroad (Constantinople, Rome and Paris), but their work was poorly organized. The new scientific institutions are intended to acquaint foreign scientists with scientific progress in the USSR. It is proposed to establish such institutes at London, Paris, Berlin, Cairo, Washington, Buenos-Aires, Madrid, Peking and Sydney.

The Academy of Sciences is making preparations for the octogenarian jubilee of its president, A. P. Karpinsky. The venerable head of the Academy of Sciences is the first elected president, as in the past the president was an appointee of the Czar. Karpinsky has been a member of the academy for forty years, and its vice-president and president for the last ten years.

The fortieth anniversary was recently celebrated of the scientific career of Professor N. M. Knipovitch, one of the leading Russian authorities in land and sea exploration. Funds have been granted for the

publication of a jubilee edition. The celebration took place at Moscow in February.

The forty year jubilee of the scientific career of Professor V. M. Bekhterev, of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was celebrated at Leningrad on December 20. Greetings were delivered by representatives of the central authorities and the federated republics. Telegrams were received from scientists in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Yugo-Slavia and America. The occasion is to be commemorated by the establishment of several laboratories and museums dedicated to the name of the eminent scientist.

Professor Shokalsky has returned to Leningrad from a journey to England, Germany, France, Scotland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. At the request of foreign scientific bodies, Professor Shokalsky lectured on geographical researches in the USSR, and on his oceanographical researches, at the French Academy of Sciences, at the Sorbonne, and before the Geographical Societies of Edinburgh and Helsingfors.

Professor Steklov, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has returned to Leningrad from a scientific mission to Germany and Italy. Professor Steklov represented the Academy of Sciences at the centenary celebration of the Superior Technical College at Karlsruhe, Germany.

The Russian mineralogist, Professor Vernadsky, of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has returned to Leningrad from Paris, where he studied the properties of radium at the French Academy of Sciences.

Dr. G. Golds, the director of the Bacteriological Institute of Oslo, has arrived in Leningrad on a scientific mission to get acquainted with the Soviet institutions engaged in the campaign against infectious diseases.

### J. B. S. HALDANE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>

MR. J. B. S. HALDANE, of Trinity College, has been deprived of his office of reader in bio-chemistry in the University of Cambridge.

Mr. Haldane was the co-respondent in an action in the divorce court, in which the verdict went against him. He was subsequently arraigned before the Sex Viri, who reported that Mr. Haldane had been guilty of "gross immorality" within the meaning of the statute, and that he was, therefore, deprived of his office of reader in bio-chemistry. Among those who signed this report were the vice-chancellor (Dr. A. C. Seward), the master of Corpus Christi (the Rev. Dr. E. C. Pearce), Lord Chalmers, and the master of Trinity Hall (Dr. Henry Bond).

The announcement of the decree has just appeared

<sup>1</sup> From the *London Times*.