was reached. The increase of mortality, which applied equally to each sex, occurred entirely in the first quarter of the year, when the death rate rose from 13.2 per 1,000 in the previous year to 16.6. The rate for the second quarter was lower than for any of the previous nine years, except 1921, and those of the third and fourth quarters were the lowest yet recorded. The excess in the first quarter occurred chiefly in March and was largely due to influenza, but the rate was high for a number of other diseases also, and it would appear that the conditions during March were such as to hasten the advent of death when impending from many causes not otherwise affected by season. The rate of infant mortality was 75 per 1,000 births, and was the lowest recorded, except in 1923, when it fell to 69. In a section on the distribution of infant mortality it is shown that the rates for the county boroughs and for the North of England are, as usual, in considerable excess, the highest rate being 99 for the northern county boroughs, and the lowest, 51, in the rural districts of the south. Taking the country as a whole, the fall of 6 per cent. as compared with the preceding quinquennium was accounted for by a decline in the number of deaths attributed to diarrhoea, congenital debility and convulsions. There was an increase from bronchitis and pneumonia. The reduction of mortality at ages 1 to 5 has been greater than in that of infants. As was pointed out in the report for last year, this is the period of life at which susceptibility of mortality to environment is greatest, so it is probable that improvement in the conditions under which the children were living has been the main factor in bringing about this remarkable change. For this improvement the fall in the birth rate may be largely responsible, but if so it "can not be expected to continue for long at the recent rate, for the birth rate, though it may continue to fall, can not long do so at the present rate consistently with national survival."

## GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC names established by the expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico, have been adopted by the United States and Mexican governments as follows:

ANGULO ROCK. A small, outlying, flat-topped rock immediately northeast of Asuncion Island, Lower California. It is named for Captain Victor Angulo, commander of the Mexican National Patrol vessel, *Presidente*.

MOUNT GALLEGOS. The highest mountain on Clarion Island of the Revillagigedo group. Chart No. 1688 of the United States Hydrographic Office, gives the elevation of this mountain as 1,100 feet. It is named in honor of the late Professor Jose M. Gallegos, explorer for the Government of Mexico and a member of the party which, in 1925, explored this mountain.

MOUNT EVERMANN. The central peak of Socorro Island of the Revillagigedo group. Named for Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, the distinguished director of the California Academy of Sciences and the organizer of this and many other expeditions in which the academy has actively cooperated with the Government of Mexico.

GRAYSON'S COVE. There is a little cove at the west end of Cornwallis Bay, Socorro Island, as shown on Chart No. 1687 of the United States Hydrographic Office. Here, in 1867, Colonel A. S. Grayson's sloop was wrecked. It is the only known supply of fresh water on the island and the suggestion has been made that it be so marked on future charts.

POINT OLD MAN OF THE ROCKS. This name was given by Colonel Grayson to the point of rocks which formed the eastern boundary of the little cove where he found fresh water.

ASH HEAP. At the south end of San Benedicto Island the highest elevation is attained, 975 feet. This elevation or peak is composed almost entirely of soft volcanic ashes, hence the name.

HERRERA CRATER. The central peak of San Benedicto Island is indicated on Chart No. 1687 of the United States Hydrographic Office as being 683 feet high. This peak is named in honor of Professor Alphonso Herrera, the director of the National Museum of Mexico. Professor Herrera took an active part in the expedition.

## VISIT OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY TO PRIESTLEY'S GRAVE

To mark the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of oxygen, seventy-four American chemists visited the former home of Priestley on the banks of the Susquehanna in August, 1874, and at that time the association was formed which became two years later the American Chemical Society. At the time of the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia on September 5, there will be a second visit to the home and grave of Priestley.

We learn from an article on the subject by Dr. Gerald Wendt in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* that only three of the original group survive. Of these Dr. S. A. Goldschmidt, of New York City, a member of the society for fifty years, and Professor A. A. Breneman, also of New York iCty, are expected to be present. Dr. F. W. Clarke, of the U. S. Geological Survey, is at present in England. Though only two of the original seventy-four can be present, there will be hundreds of their scientific heirs who will make the pilgrimage to mark the double anniversary. Some of them will be looking forward to their part in the next great pilgrimage in 1974.

Hosts on this occasion will be Mrs. Frances Priestley Forsythe, great-granddaughter of the founder of modern chemistry; the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society, in whose territory the town of Northumberland lies, and the G. G. Pond

Memorial Association. This last is composed of alumni of Penn State, former students of Dean Pond, who answered his appeal six years ago and purchased the old mansion. It was already a century and a quarter old and had fallen on evil days, having been used during the war as a boarding house for immigrant labor. It was purchased at public auction to save it from entire destruction. It has been reconditioned and a fireproof museum, designed by Professor A. L. Kocher, an authority on early Pennsylvania architecture, has now been erected on the lawn, to house a complete collection of Priestley's original laboratory apparatus and other personal effects. Much of this is still in existence, due to the devotion of Mrs. Forsythe, of Dr. Edgar F. Smith and others, and will be permanently on display in this museum.

Northumberland was a frontier settlement when Priestley arrived in 1794, beautifully situated under high hills at the junction of the east and west branches of the Susquehanna River. It is 160 miles from Philadelphia, but he chose it because "nothing can be more delightful or healthy than this place," while Philadelphia seemed "unpleasant, unhealthy and intolerably expensive." To-day it is an industrial town of several thousand people. The house stands directly on the banks of the east branch of the river, facing the city of Sunbury just opposite. Near by is the brick church, built in 1834, which still houses the Unitarian congregation organized by Priestley in 1794. Half a mile away is the town's only cemetery where Priestley lies with his wife and seventeen descendants, two of whom were also "Dr. Joseph Priestley."

The ceremonies will be brief. There is no room at the grave for exercises so that the pilgrimage itself and perhaps the laying of a flower will constitute the simple homage of each individual chemist. The special train is scheduled to arrive at one o'clock and the visit to the grave will be made first. There will then be time to examine the Priestley house, including the spacious room in the ell which was used by Priestley as a laboratory, and the new museum containing his original apparatus. The meeting will convene on the lawn at 2:15 under the two tall pines planted by Priestley himself. The porch of the house will be used as a platform.

Dr. S. A. Goldschmidt, the only surviving charter member who was present at the 1874 meeting, will give an account of that meeting. Dr. Wm. H. Walker, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who taught at Penn State with Dr. Pond in the early nineties, and was active with him in the effort to preserve the Priestley house, will speak on the history of the house, and Dr. C. A. Browne, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and chairman of the American Chemical Society committee on the historical program for the fiftieth anniversary, will speak on Priestley's life in Northumberland and on the relics exhibited. The meeting will be less than an hour in length and the special train will leave for Philadelphia at about 3:30.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FRANK R. LILLIE, professor of embryology at the University of Chicago, has resigned the directorship of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, which he has held since 1908. He remains president of the Board of Trustees. Dr. M. H. Jacobs, of the department of zoology of the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected director of the laboratory to succeed Dr. Lillie.

ON the occasion of the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the degree of doctor of science was conferred by the University of Oxford on Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, of the American Museum of Natural History.

THE citizens of Milan, Ohio, the birthplace of Thomas A. Edison, plan to raise money to buy a 200-acre tract for a park as a permanent memorial to Mr. Edison.

IN the plans for celebrating the centenary of Ottawa, the fact that Marquis wheat was originated at the Canadian Government's Central Experimental Farm by one of its workers, is to be emphasized. By this discovery in 1904 Dr. Charles E. Saunders, who was then the government cerealist, has increased not only the agricultural wealth of Canada by many millions of dollars, but also that of the hard wheat-growing area of the United States, for it is said that 90 per cent. of the spring wheat grown in Canada and 60 per cent. of that produced in the United States is Marquis.

THE colleagues of the well-known Danish physiologist, Professor August Krogh, have made his fiftieth birthday the occasion for offering to him their felicitations and homage in the form of a volume entitled *Physiological Papers*.

THE Bavarian Academy of Science has elected as corresponding members: Dr. Harald Bohr, professor of mathematics at the Technical Institute at Copenhagen; Dr. Niels Bohr, professor of physics at the University of Copenhagen, and Dr. Hans Strasser, professor of anatomy and director of the anatomic institute of the University of Bern.

*Nature* states that the Council of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany has awarded the Snell Memorial Medal for the year 1925 to Dr. R. N. Salaman. The medal is given annually to mark distinguished work in the sphere of potato husbandry,