During the summer of 1922, Ralph Lusk had served as field assistant to Kirtley F. Mather, of the U. S. Geological Survey, in Colorado and New Mexico. Shortly thereafter he was appointed assistant geologist on the survey and spent the summer of 1923 in Montana as assistant to A. J. Collier. Similarly during the field season of 1924 he was engaged in geological mapping in northeast Colorado for the United States Geological Survey, and during the field season of 1925 and 1926 he was in eastern Tennessee as geologist of the State Survey. This field work supplied the basis for his doctor's thesis as well as shorter technical articles. He was also one of the joint authors of a government bulletin, now in press, descriptive of the oil and gas resources of northeast Colorado.

Dr. Lusk was a member of Beta Theta Pi and a Mason. He is survived by his widow and four children: twin daughters, aged eight; a son, Ralph Gordon Lusk, Jr., aged four, and a baby daughter, nine months old.

KIRTLEY F. MATHER

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT KOSSEL

GEHEIMRATH PROFESSOR ALBRECHT KOSSEL, until recently professor of physiology in Heidelberg University, director of the Heidelberg Institute for the Study of Proteins, Nobel prize winner, known for his elucidation of the chemistry of the proteins and of nuclear chromatin matter, died unexpectedly, after a very short illness, in Heidelberg on July 5.

Professor Kossel in a very real sense was the founder of modern biochemistry. It was his conception of the structure of the proteins, following upon his study of the simplest of these substances, the protamines, a conception which was confirmed and established by synthesis of artificial or synthetic proteins by Emil Fischer, work undertaken at Professor Kossel's suggestion and request, which gave to biochemistry its great impetus in the last years of the nineteenth century and led to the wonderful outburst of activity in this field.

Professor Kossel was a fine-looking man of medium height, of a simple, friendly, affectionate and generous nature. He had nothing of the insolence, conceit and arrogance so often associated with the Prussian, but he was a real scientific man, modest, kindly, simple, sincere, with a brilliant imagination and indefatigably at work in the laboratory even up to the time of his death. He retained his youthfulness of appearance, of mind and outlook and all of his faculties to the very end of his life. To his great honor it may be recalled that he did not sign the ridiculous pronunciamento of the German professors at the start of the great war. He did not sympathize with those who brought on the war, although after his country was engaged he gave it loyal support.

Ever since the death of Hoppe-Seyler he had been editor of the *Zeitschrift für Physiologische Chemie*, being associated for a year or two and until the death of the latter with Professor Baumann, but being thereafter sole managing editor. This journal, established by Hoppe-Seyler about 1879, was for many years the only journal in the world devoted exclusively to biochemistry and it is one of the finest journals of science of the present day, its papers being almost without exception valuable contributions to the subject and several of them being classics in their fields.

Mrs. Kossel, whom many American students and friends will remember with great affection for her kindness, sincerity and intelligence, and who was related to some of our most distinguished scientific men, died in 1912. Two children survive them; a son, the distinguished physicist of Kiel, Professor Walther Kossel, and a daughter, Gertrud Kossel; and three grandchildren, Albrecht, Dierick and Irene Kossel. Professor Kossel was a brother of the bacteriologist, Professor H. Kossel, who died about two years ago.

Professor Kossel had many pupils, his laboratory in Heidelberg being filled before the war with students from all lands. His death is felt by them all as a great personal loss. It removes another of the great men of science of Germany, the greatest glory of that country in the years just preceding the war. As one after another of these great men pass away it is as if one light after another were being extinguished and Germany entering again into the twilight of learning.

ALBERT P. MATHEWS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

THE Imperial Agricultural Research Conference which opens in London on October 4 has, according to a report in the London *Times*, as its main objects the establishment of closer cooperation in agricultural research work throughout the empire, the setting up of additional research stations in tropical and subtropical countries, the creation of greater imperial bureaus, and the recruitment, training and interchange of research workers. It will be attended by seventy-five delegates of high administrative and scientific standing from the oversea parts of the empire and by many representatives from Great Britain and