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

Northern Ireland. The Dominions and India are sending thirty delegates, and representatives of the Colonies and Protectorates will attend from Barbados, British Guiana, Ceylon, Cyprus, Gold Coast, Kenya, Leeward Islands, Malaya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Nyasaland, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Trinidad, Grenada and Windward Isles, Uganda, Zanzibar and Sudan.

Lord Bledisloe, the parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, is the chairman of the organizing committee, and the members of the conference, in addition to various representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Colonial Office and the Board of Education, include the High Commissioners for the Dominions, representatives of the Empire Marketing Board, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, the Bureaus of Entomology and Mycology, the Overseas Settlement Department, the University Grants Committee, the Department of Overseas Trade and the Forestry Commission.

The importance and value of such a conference was first urged by the Agricultural Research Council several years ago, and since then the matter has been discussed by the Imperial Conference and the Colonial Office Conference. Recently Lord Lovat's Committee on Agricultural and Research Administration in the non-self-governing Colonies put forward recommendations for closer cooperation on these matters. The conference will be held in the Grand Committee Room of the Houses of Parliament, and will be opened on October 4 by the Minister of Agriculture. In the evening the delegates will be the guests of the government at a dinner in the Royal Gallery, House of Lords. Till October 7 the full conference will discuss the agenda of administrative questions, and the organizing committee anticipate that this will lead to the appointment of commissions to examine in detail and prepare reports and recommendations on the question of the extension of the system of imperial bureaus from entomology and mycology to other departments of agricultural science. It is probable that recommendations will be put forward for the setting up of empire bureaus in veterinary science and for investigating soil problems and plant breeding, and also for a bureau on agricultural economics. The desire of the Australian Government to set up a research institute at Queensland on subtropical agriculture will also come before the conference. Specialist commissions are to be set up to bring together the delegates interested in a special subject of research and to assist in the formulation of schemes of combined research work. The full sessions of the conference will be resumed on October 24 and continue for four days. During the intervening period part of a program of visits to research centers will be carried out.

The University of London will hold a reception at the Imperial Institute, and the delegates during their stay in London will have the opportunity of viewing at the Science Museum a special exhibition illustrating the history of agricultural implements and of inspecting at the British Museum manuscripts and books dealing with agricultural science. Arrangements are being made at both museums for lectures on such subjects and special pamphlets will also be provided for the use of the delegates. On October 14 the Vice-chancellor of Cambridge University will give a luncheon to the delegates, and after inspecting the various departments of scientific research the party will leave for Edinburgh on October 18. The headquarters of the conference will remain in Edinburgh until October 22. Afterwards delegates will have the opportunity of visiting Aberdeen to inspect the work of the Rowett Institute in relation to animal nutrition and visiting Belfast, where they will be entertained by the Government of Northern Ireland and shown the plant breeding, poultry and animal diseases research stations.

The reports of the various commissions appointed will be considered by the full conference in London between October 24 and 27. On October 29, the party will visit the Rothamsted Experimental Station, on October 31 the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, on November 1 the East Malling Research Station, and on November 2 Oxford University, including the Institutes of Agricultural Economics Research, Agricultural Engineering and Imperial Forestry.

THE BIOCHEMICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, LONDON

THE Middlesex Hospital, already distinguished by the Bland-Sutton Pathological Institute, has now, according to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, the further distinction of an institute of biochemistry, thanks to the gift of $200,000 by Mr. S. A. Courtauld. At the opening ceremony, Mr. A. E. Webb-Johnson, honorary treasurer of the medical school, recalled that it was only a few years since Mr. Courtauld gave $100,000 to endow the chair of anatomy, "one of the fundamental medical sciences." The foundations of scientific work in the Middlesex Hospital Medical School were laid by Sir John Bland-Sutton before the war, by his gift of the pathologic institute bearing his name. "Dictionaries printed before the year 1900 contain no such word as biochemistry, but the name is now familiar, and though new the science is old," said Sir John Bland-Sutton, in an address on "Biochemistry in Relation to Medicine," a science concerned with the application of the princi-