

territory. Where others had failed Dr. Newcombe succeeded. In a quiet unassuming manner, he led in the gathering together of a small group of botanists and the organization of the Hawaiian Botanical Society, April 7, 1924. He became the first president of the new organization and by the end of his presidential year its success was assured. Its growth and development have been steady.

In the same manner, through his influence, a larger group with more diversified scientific interests gathered at the University of Hawaii and there under his leadership the Hawaiian Academy of Science was organized July 23, 1925. Again he served in the capacity of first president during the first critical year of its existence, giving freely of his time, energy and the wisdom of his deep rich life. The successful year closed with a four-day session devoted to the reading of papers bearing on various scientific subjects of interest. The Hawaiian Academy of Science has continued its active growth.

Dr. Newcombe's helpfulness to the cause he loved did not end with the organization of these two societies. The lathstring of his study was always out. Never was he too busy, too tired or too engrossed with his own affairs to pause and help with advice, suggestion or criticism a fellow worker. In fact it seemed as if he could not do or give freely enough from his rich life. Age, sickness and sorrow did not dim the brightness of his great mind. He remained, as he would have wished, in full possession of his mental faculties until a few hours before his death. As he approached the sunset of his life, those who knew him best felt a softening and a mellowing of his natural austerity. Many an eye was moist at the close of the simple service held in his home, where alumni of the University of Michigan, friends and scientists had gathered in the hush and quiet of the late Sabbath afternoon, to pay tribute by word and profusion of flowers to the memory of a great teacher, scientist and friend. His passing means much to the community at large, to the scientific world and to his friends here and on the mainland.

As student and author of many articles on original research, as teacher, counselor and inspiration to his students and fellow workers, Dr. Newcombe has exercised a dominating influence in the advancement of scientific thought in America.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE annual general meeting of the Australian National Research Council was held in Melbourne on August 25 and 26. According to a report printed in

*Nature*, particular attention was given to the financial position of the council in relation to present and future work. The offer of the Carnegie Corporation to provide a sum of £5,000 as the nucleus of a research fund was accepted with most cordial thanks, and with this sum and more than £1,000 available from other sources, such a fund was formally instituted. A strong committee was appointed to take action for securing additional contributions from Australian sources, and it is hoped that before long the council will be in a position to give considerable aid to Australian workers in pure science. Amongst several satisfactory reports on the year's work was one from the anthropology committee outlining the progress made since the initiation of the department of anthropology in the University of Sydney. This step followed upon a resolution by the second Pan-Pacific Science Congress of 1923 and was made possible by contributions from the commonwealth and state governments and the Rockefeller Foundation. The new department is now in full swing and is taking active steps to organize investigations both on the mainland and on the neighboring Pacific islands. The following new members were elected to the Australian National Research Council, the total membership of which may not at any time exceed 100: Mr. C. R. P. Andrews (director of education, Western Australia); Professor A. R. Radcliffe Brown (anthropology, University of Sydney); Professor A. N. S. H. Burkitt (anatomy, Sydney); Professor A. J. Ewart (botany, Melbourne); Dr. W. A. Hargreaves (government chemist, South Australia); Professor J. W. Paterson (agriculture, Perth), and Dr. H. R. Seddon (Veterinary Research Station, New South Wales).

The trustees of the Commonwealth Science and Industry Endowment Fund in Australia are this year making £1,250 available in small grants for the assistance of scientific workers in Australia. The lines which will be followed in making the grants will be similar to those which have been proved to be satisfactory by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Great Britain. The Commonwealth Fund has an invested capital of £100,000, and it is provided by act of parliament that the interest from it shall be employed for the dual purposes of training students in the methods of scientific research and in providing assistance to persons engaged in research, irrespective of whether their work has an obvious practical application or not. At present, the income is being devoted mainly to the first object, but as time goes on it is expected that an increasing sum will be available annually for distribution in grants.

### LECTURES BY INDUSTRIAL FELLOWS AT THE MELLON INSTITUTE

THE following course of lectures on technologic subjects, by specialists engaged in scientific investigation