wiakoff, of Irkutsk, has taken up the study of this group, and important results may be confidently expected. The Tardigrade genus *Macrobiotus* occurs in the lake. The recorded algae are numerous, about 170 species, including a number of endemic *Draparnaldia*. A microscopic alga parasitic on mosquito larvae was described last year by Jasnitski. There is a recently described endemic *Hydra*.

The biota of the region around the lake is purely Palaearctic. The flowering plants include such genera as *Rhododendron, Cotoneaster, Rosa, Rubus, Pedicularis, Parnassia, Papaver, Aconitum, Polemonium, Spiraea, Alnus, Polygala, Scutellaria, Lamium, Ranunculus, Veratrum, Silene, Myosotis, Zygadenus, Geranium, Thalictrum, Chrysanthemum, Linaria, Centaurea, Sedum, Agrimonia, Stellaria, Campanula,* etc. *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Epilobium angustifolium* are abundant, and quite the same as we get in America. A common tall labiate with pink flowers is *Phlomis tuberosa*; I found also a form *albiflora*, with pure white flowers. Land snails are very few in all this region; the only peculiar one I found is apparently the *Eulota asiatica* Dybowski, described as a variety of the European *E. fruticum*. The scarcity of snails may be due to the fact that after the ice age no migration was possible from the south, the Gobi desert intervening.

T. D. A. COCKERELL
GEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE, IRKUTSK, SIBERIA,
AUGUST 17

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MEMORIAL OF PROFESSOR BRUCE FINK

THE committee of the university senate of Miami University, appointed by President Brandon to prepare a statement for the senate record in memory of Professor Bruce Fink, submits the following:

Early on the morning of July 10, 1927, Professor Fink died just after entering his laboratory.

He was born in the village of Blackberry, Illinois, December 22, 1861. He was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1887, and received the degree of M.S. in 1894. He continued his graduate work at Harvard University as a Townsend scholar, where the degree of A.M. was conferred upon him in 1896. His work was completed for a doctorate at the University of Minnesota in 1899. He studied at the University of Chicago in 1903. From 1887–92 he was engaged in secondary education; from 1892–1903, professor of biology in Upper Iowa University; from 1903–06, professor of botany, Grinnell College, and from 1906 to the time of his death, professor of botany, Miami University.

A partial list of his activities outside of the immediate conduct of his department indicates his wide general interest in promoting botanical research and something of his standing among his fellow botanists. He took part in a botanical survey of Minnesota, 1896–03; was in charge of botanical studies at the Marine Biological Station, Puget Sound, Washington, 1906, and was associate editor of *Mycologia* from 1908 on. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; member of the American Society of Naturalists, of Botanical Society of America, of the Botanical Society of the Central States, the Sullivant Moss Society president, 1910. His leadership in scientific circles was recognized by becoming president of Iowa Academy of Science in 1904, and of the Ohio Academy of Science in 1912.

His productive work as a scientist is indicated by the long list of titles of his publications—more than one hundred, mainly relating to lichens. During his study of these plants he amassed a large collection of some 15,000 specimens, one of the most complete in this country. He was generally recognized as the leading American lichenist and one of the two greatest in the world. At the time of his death he was bringing together the results of his long research in the form of a monograph, "The Lichens of the United States." His work was so far advanced that it will be possible to complete it essentially as he had planned to do himself.

He was much interested in young people and helped them in many ways. He was an especially keen judge of ability in students and was able in many instances to encourage individuals of promise to enter the field of science as a life career. More students went into graduate work from his department than from any other in the university. Among these many have become leaders in various fields of botanical research.

As a citizen he had a high sense of civic responsibility, and was active in many enterprises promoting community welfare or adding beauty to its environment. He was always interested in public affairs, was well informed on political questions, both state and national.

His passing leaves a vacant place in our university group, one that will not soon be filled. As a colleague he will be long remembered for his genial fellowship and fine spirit of cooperation. Many of the younger members of the faculty will recall the cordial interest he showed towards their problems and ambitions. All the older members will preserve the memory of his unfailing friendship.

B. M. DAVIS, *Chairman*
S. R. WILLIAMS
C. H. HANDSCHIN
F. L. CLARK
W. H. SHIDELER

THE THIRD RACE BETTERMENT CONFERENCE

PRELIMINARY announcement of the Third Race Betterment Conference, the first to be held since the war, has been made by Dr. C. C. Little, president of the University of Michigan, who heads the conference committee.

The two-fold object of the forthcoming conference, which will be held at Battle Creek from January 2

to 6, is first to assemble the facts of race degeneracy and also of recent scientific progress dealing with the prolongation of human life, and second to give a greater impetus to the dissemination of these facts for the benefit of humanity. Special group sessions will be given over to reports of recent progress in the field of bacteriology, medicine, nutrition, eugenics, physiology and education.

The conference is being organized under the auspices of the Race Betterment Foundation, the founder and president of which is Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, and which sponsored the first and second conferences held in 1914 and 1915 at Battle Creek and at the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The Battle Creek Sanitarium will act as host for the January conference.

Delegates will be present from many research laboratories, including the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the Sheffield Scientific School, the Eugenics Record Office of the Carnegie Institution, Cornell University Medical College, the Universities of Chicago, the Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Yale, Northwestern, Wisconsin, etc.

Among the speakers announced are the following: Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, city health commissioner, Chicago, president of the American Health Association; Dr. Anton J. Carlson, chairman of the department of physiology of the University of Chicago; Dr. Alexis Carrel, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Professor Russell H. Chittenden, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University; Dr. C. B. Davenport, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.; the Honorable J. J. Davis, secretary of labor, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Irving Fisher, professor of political economy in Yale University; Dr. Glenn Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin; Professor J. W. Glover, professor of mathematics and insurance in the University of Michigan; Professor M. F. Guyer, professor of zoology in the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Louis I. Harris, New York city health commissioner; Charles Holmes Herty, adviser to the Chemical Foundation, Inc.; Major-General M. W. Ireland, surgeon-general U. S. Army; the Honorable Albert Johnson, chairman of the committee on immigration and naturalization, House of Representatives; Professor E. O. Jordan, chairman of the department of hygiene and bacteriology of the University of Chicago; Professor Charles H. Judd, director of the School of Education, University of Chicago; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary of the National Research Council; Dr. Arthur I. Kendall, dean of the biological department, Northwestern University Medical School; Dr. Franklin H. Martin, director-general of the American College of Surgeons and director of the Gorgas Memorial Institute, Chicago; Dr. Max Mason, president of the University of Chicago; Professor E. V. McCollum, School of Hygiene and Public Health, the Johns Hopkins University; Professor Edward Alsworth Ross, professor of sociology, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern University; Dr. George David Stewart, president of the American College of Surgeons, New York City; Dr. John Sundwall, professor of hygiene and public health of the University of Michigan; Dr. Aldred Scott Warthin, president of the National Association of American Physicians and director of the pathological laboratory of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, Washington, D. C.

OPENING OF THE NICHOLS CHEMISTRY BUILDING AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

THE Nichols Chemistry Building of New York University was opened on the afternoon of December 3. Dr. William H. Nichols, a graduate of the university, now a member of the council, gave $600,000 for the erection of the building. Among those who gave addresses are Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, professor of chemistry at Harvard University; Dr. Arthur E. Hill, professor of chemistry at New York University, and Dr. James Kendall, professor of chemistry and dean of the graduate school of the university.

Dr. William H. Nichols, a graduate of the university college of arts and pure science of New York University in the class of 1870 and a member of the council of New York University, who in 1925 donated the sum of $600,000 for the erection of the building, and Mrs Nichols were present at the ceremonies. Dr. Nichols formally presented the building and Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown accepted the gift on the part of the university. Mrs. Nichols unveiled the memorial tablet.

The Nichols Chemistry Building greatly enlarges facilities for the teaching and laboratory work in chemistry at the university, which previous to the erection of the new building was carried on in the Havemeyer laboratory, which has now been turned over to the department of biology for research work.

The new building is a rectangular structure 210 feet long by 60 feet wide, located on the south side of the fifty-acre campus at University Heights. It is so constructed as to have four stories and a basement above ground, with an attic for mechanical installation purposes. It contains approximately 1,000,000 cubic feet of floor space and over 60,000 square feet is being devoted to laboratories and lecture rooms.

The building, designed by Augustus N. Allen, is one of the largest buildings in the country entirely