He had learned to know his fellow men, to look with sympathy upon their misfortunes and to use his knowledge wisely for their benefit. He was essentially the good physician absorbed in the patient and in unraveling the intricate meshwork of difficulties that surrounded him, whether these were maladies of the flesh or of the mind. No better impression of his attitude towards the sick can be gained than from his own essay on "The Care of the Patient," where the theme is developed with unusual insight and understanding.

Above all perhaps he inspired perfect faith and confidence in his students, his assistants and his friends, and finally during his last illness, his fortitude and great spiritual qualities bore all before them and uplifted unforgetably those who came in contact with him far above the tribulation of earthly things.

Francis Peabody died in Cambridge on October 13, 1927. His loss is a great one to American medicine. The record of his life, his work and his character remain as an inspiration to all who enter the field of medicine, while his noble fortitude and gallantry persist as a precious memory for his friends.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN EXPOSITION

IT is reported in *Nature* that, in celebration of the tenth year of the existence of Czechoslovakia, an exhibition of contemporary culture and scientific achievement has been arranged at Brno, in Moravia, and will remain open until the end of October. The exhibition is designed to show the progress made during the country's brief existence. The scientific and general studies conducted in different types of schools, institutes and colleges are portrayed, culminating in the research exhibits from the science faculties of the universities and from special research associations. The great increase in the number and circulation of cultural periodicals, the production of books and the number of libraries opened is said to afford a striking testimony to the progress made. The undertakings of governmental ministries and transport developments are also intimately connected with this cultural progress, and while new railways have been laid, air services opened, postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications improved and extended in remote areas, much still remains to be completed and such work already in hand is depicted as though it stood, like an artist's unfinished picture, upon an easel.

The Brno exhibition is arranged to show the close interrelationship between the state, the sciences and general culture. The spread of ideas through the receipt of foreign journals and news is expressed by a long aisle, the white walls of which have dark lines to represent railway tracks. The engineering difficulties encountered in duplicating lines in poorly served areas have brought together specialists in different branches of pure and applied science, and such connections are indicated. Other links, such as that of the Ministry of Health with the radium exhibit from Jáchymov and the products from other curative spas, are emphasized. The recent growth of towns, urbanism, is depicted by statistical designs among small-scale apparatus illustrating the latest methods in purifying water supplies, generating electricity, etc. Sciences concerned with inanimate matter and those which are observational and descriptive occupy the ground floor; the mathematical sciences are above, while the philosophical studies are placed still higher. *Nature* says that architecturally the main hall is a surprise of impressive spaciousness. The graceful parabolas of concrete admit a maximum of light; smaller surrounding pavilions contain exhibits of the public works of important towns and the arts sections of culture.

THE CHARTING OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

THE U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey reports that the S. S. *Guide,* after completing the work of charting on the Kona coast of the Island of Hawaii, proceeded to the northwest islands of the Hawaiian group. The work there is the beginning of an extended program of latitude and longitude observations, determinations of gravity, measurements of magnetic declination and intensity, charting and topographic mapping. These small islands have needed such observations in order that they may be accurately charted. Their positions have heretofore been located for the most part by sextant observations only.

The geological aspect of these islands has been considered by Professor Harold S. Palmer, of the Bishop Museum. They are uninhabited, and have been given little attention in the way of scientific investigations and surveys. It is believed that these are the older islands of the Hawaiian group and that they were at one time high volcanic cones, now reduced by erosion to projecting fragments and shoals.

The *Guide* has completed the first trip of three weeks to Nihoa and Necker Islands and to French Frigates Shoal. On Nihoa an astronomic station was occupied, where latitude, longitude and azimuth were determined. Observations were also made for gravity and for magnetic declination. A topographic map of the island was made on the scale of 1: 2,500. Some difficulty due to heavy seas attended the first attempt

to go ashore on the island. The boat carrying the scientific party with instruments and supplies was capsized during the landing, but the instruments were for the most part recovered and there were no casualties.

Observations were to have been made on Necker Island, but rough weather made landing there impracticable. The ship therefore proceeded to French Frigates Shoal, where on East Island the same observations were made as on Nihoa. Triangulation was also started, and more complete magnetic observations were made at this place.

The ship returned to Honolulu for supplies and fuel, and has started on a second trip to these islands. Another attempt will be made to occupy Necker to make there the same observations that have been completed at Nihoa and French Frigates Shoal, and to continue the triangulation work at the latter place.

The program contemplates continuing these observations on through the islands to the northwest as far as Ocean Island, if conditions permit, perhaps representing several seasons' work. For the longitude and gravity observations radio time signals are received direct from the Arlington station near Washington, D. C. Lieutenants Brown, Bainbridge and Simmons, who did geodetic work on the Island of Hawaii about a year and a half ago, are the observers in this present work.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COURSES OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS

SCIENTIFIC and technical courses will be given at the Bureau of Standards beginning on October 1. The courses are open to all properly qualified students as well as to members of the staff. The subjects covered this year are: Advanced optics, Fourier series and spherical harmonics, Newtonian potential function, Einstein's relativity and theory, analytical mechanics, chemical thermodynamics, advanced inorganic chemistry, ceramic petrography, Heaviside's electrical circuit theory and elementary ceramics.

Each course will be given by an expert in that particular field, the instructors being Dr. T. L. de Bruin, of the University of Amsterdam, and research fellow of the International Education Board; Dr. Tobias Danzig, of the University of Maryland; Dr. L. H. Adams, of the Geophysical Laboratory; Dr. Louis Cohen, of the Signal Corps Research Laboratory; and Dr. Paul R. Heyl, Dr. Raleigh Gilchrist, Dr. Herbert Insley and R. V. Stull, of the Bureau of Standards.

These educational courses of the bureau were started twenty years ago, and each year an opportunity has been given to the younger men and women on the bureau's staff and outside to perfect themselves in physics, chemistry, mathematics and allied subjects. Authority for the work is contained in a joint resolution of the congress in 1892, opening the government's bureaus for research and educational purposes.

The fees charged place the work on a self-supporting basis, nearly every year showing a small increase in the reserve fund which is added to the sum available to pay the expenses of instructors, prepare the necessary copies of lectures and carry the work through occasional "lean years."

The enrolment has increased slowly but steadily. At the present time about 90 students have enrolled for the coming season. The number will probably be about 120 by October 1.

The work is under the supervision of an educational committee, consisting of four members appointed by the director of the bureau and two elected by the students. The chairman for the past eight years has been Dr. L. B. Tuckerman, of the engineering mechanics section and an internationally known expert on the theory of structures.

Complete information on the courses for the coming year may be obtained by addressing the Educational Committee, Bureau of Standards.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND MR. ORVILLE WRIGHT

IN an attempt to clarify the Smithsonian Institution's position on the Langley-Wright controversy, to correct errors, where errors have been made, and to do justice alike to three great pioneers of human flight—Wilbur and Orville Wright and Samuel Pierpont Langley—as well as to the Smithsonian, Secretary Charles G. Abbot has made public a comprehensive statement (Smithsonian Publication No. 2977). In this he takes up individually what he understands to be Mr. Orville Wright's grievances against the institution.

Pointing out that since his election as secretary in January, 1928, he had sought to end the controversy, Dr. Abbot reviews the history of the institution's relations with the Wright brothers. He lists seven points to illustrate the recognition by the Smithsonian of the Wrights' achievement in being the first to make sustained human flights in a power-propelled, heavier-than-air machine. This recognition includes the publication of articles by the Wright brothers in the Smithsonian Annual Reports for 1902 and 1914, and of other articles descriptive of their achievements; the award to the Wright brothers of the first Langley Gold Medal for Aeronautics; the request made in 1910 for Wright planes, including the Kitty Hawk plane, to be exhibited in the National Museum, and the public exhibition in the museum of the Wright plane of 1908 (deposited by the War Department)