DR. HARRIS MILLER BENEDICT, professor of botany in the University of Cincinnati, and his daughter, a freshman at the university, were killed in an automobile accident on October 17. Professor Benedict was fifty-five years old. He had been president of the Ohio Academy of Science and was a representative of the American Society of Plant Physiologists on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. E. A. SCHWARZ, the well-known beetle specialist of the Bureau of Entomology, who retired several years ago, died on October 15. On the afternoon of the sixteenth a memorial meeting was held in the museum and several of the older entomologists spoke appreciatively of his life and work.

Nature reports, on September 27, at the age of eighty-three years, the death of Sir Henry Wickham, who succeeded in obtaining seeds of *Hevea* from the Upper Amazon which were successfully grown at Kew and distributed in the East, thus starting the plantation rubber industry.

DR. ROBERT KNOX, president of the British Röntgen Society, died on September 21 at the age of sixty years.

DR. JEAN BRETHES, entomologist of the Museum of Natural History at Buenos Aires, died on July 2.

THE one hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the Columbus Section of the American Chemical Society was held in the new chemistry building at the Ohio State University on October 15. The speaker of the evening was Dr. Orland R. Sweeney, head of the department of engineering chemistry at the Iowa State College. His subject was: "The Commercial Utilization of Corn Stalks and Corn Cobs." Dr. Sweeney reviewed the present economic situation in agriculture and told of the research work now in progress to utilize the yearly waste of over a billion tons of crop residues. It was followed by a demonstration of the new Kodacolor process by Mr. Frank Haskett, of the department of architecture of the Ohio State University.

AN intersectional meeting of the Eastern New York, Cornell, Rochester, Western New York and Syracuse Sections of the American Chemical Society was held at Syracuse University on October 19 and 20, at which a symposium was held on the organization of industrial research and a discussion on cellulose. Among those taking part in the symposium were Dr. C. E. Kenneth Mees, of the Eastman Kodak Company; Charles M. A. Stine, of the du Pont Company; Professor John Johnston, of Yale University; Dr. W. R. Whitney, of the General Electric Company, and Thomas Midgley, Jr., of Dayton, Ohio.

A PUBLIC health congress and exhibition to be held in London in November is noted in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. Addresses will be given by Sir George Newman, chief medical officer of the ministry of health and board of education, on the purpose of the public health services; by Sir Walter Fletcher, secretary of the Medical Research Council; by Mr. E. D. Simon, formerly lord mayor of Manchester, on housing; by Mr. Wilfred Buckley, a member of the milk advisory board, on the production and distribution of wholesome milk, and by Dr. W. M. Willoughby, health officer of the city of London, on food protection from the national and domestic standpoints. Water supply and sewerage, the construction and equipment of hospitals and town cleansing are other subjects to be discussed. The congress will last for a week.

A DINNER of the Engineering Foundation in New York City on October 19 marked the opening of a campaign to collect $7,000,000 for the work of the institute. Of the total sum to be raised, $2,000,000 is sought to advance scientific research under the auspices of the foundation and the rest is needed to add to the library of the Engineering Societies Building, at 29 West Thirty-ninth Street. Dr. Charles H. Herty, adviser to the Chemical Foundation, Inc., called for the establishment of a Cellulose Institute to be financed jointly by the lumber, cotton textile and paper institutes. Others who spoke were Marston T. Bogert, professor of chemistry at Columbia University, and Ambrose Swasey, of Cleveland, founder of the Engineering Foundation.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A GIFT of $20,000 as a fund for fellowships or scholarships has been made to the Yale School of Forestry by Mrs. William H. Sage, of Albany, New York. The fund has been given as a memorial to William Henry Sage, a graduate of Yale College in the class of 1865. Before his death Mr. Sage provided a fund of $300,000 for the erection of a building for the School of Forestry, in memory of his son, DeWitt Linn Sage, Yale, '97.

THE new agricultural hall at Berea College, made possible by a gift of $45,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Joel E. Goldthwait, of Boston, was dedicated on October 18.

DR. C. T. DOWELL, formerly dean of the school of agriculture of the Oklahoma College and director of the Oklahoma Station, has been appointed dean of

the College of Agriculture and director of the stations of Louisiana University. He took up his new work in August, succeeding Dr. W. R. Dodson, whose resignation has been previously noted.

NEW appointments announced by the University of Chicago board of trustees include that of Thomas Griffith Taylor, now head of the department of geography in the University of Sydney, Australia, as professor in the department of geography. Dr. William Robinson has been appointed assistant professor in the department of pathology under the Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute. Promotions include that of Ernest P. Lane to a professorship in the department of mathematics.

DR. SHERMAN C. BISHOP has resigned as New York State zoologist to accept a position in the University of Rochester.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE CONSERVATION OF INTELLECT

PROFESSOR WILLIAMS[1] has indicated a very important problem which has a marked bearing on the future of scientific research in America. He notes that many students borrow money to enable them to complete their college course and that under that handicap of debt they can not go on to graduate study without having the financial assistance of a university fellowship or assistantship.

Professor Williams points out that there are all too few fellowships available and that a routine assistantship offers far from ideal environment for fostering creative scholarship. Accordingly he suggests:

> If funds were available to finance a group of fellowships for this class of men, as has been done by the National Research Council for the men who have just taken their doctorate, I believe help in fostering research work would be applied at the most strategical period in the career of a young researcher. At present there are not enough graduate assistantships to take care of all those who desire to do graduate work. These additional fellowships would add greatly to the opportunities for advanced work which the assistantships now partially supply.

I wish to add a fervent "Amen!" to Professor Williams' plea. The entire department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota has available each year *three* fellowships, each carrying a $500 stipend and exemption from university tuition. There are approximately 250 graduate students majoring in the various fields of agricultural science at Minnesota. Each year from forty to fifty applications for the three available fellowships pass through my hands in my capacity as chairman of the Graduate Group Committee for Agriculture. In the past five years applications for these three fellowships have been received from nearly every state in the Union and from several foreign countries.

It is the task of this committee to decide which three of the applicants shall receive the awards.

Each year every member of the committee goes away "heart-sick" from the meeting at which the awards are decided. Time and again we read on the application blank the aspirations of the student to begin or continue graduate work, ending with the plea that such aspirations can not be realized unless some small income is assured.

In a group of fifty applications it is a relatively easy task to select twenty-five which have definitely inferior credentials as compared with the other twenty-five. This does not mean that the lower group is not of graduate caliber but rather that they do not appear from the evidence available to be definitely superior. Accordingly this group is eliminated from further consideration.

Then comes the task of selecting within the upper group. Here again we can choose with less certainty a group of ten or twelve who appear to show more promise or who have had more basic science courses than the others. The choice here is fraught with a much greater probability of error than the first selection process.

Now comes the task of selecting *three* from the outstanding ten or twelve! Frankly, it can't be done—except by casting lots, and that is what occurs every year. All the students in this upper group should go on for graduate study. All have promise of a brilliant future. Only three can receive fellowships, and to my own knowledge some students in this upper group, but whose fate, as luck would have it, was to be denied the fellowship stipend, are now teaching in high schools or working at various tasks in industrial laboratories in order to live and pay the accumulated debt, when in justice to ourselves as a cultural nation they ought to be either candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree, or, having received that degree, ought to be in professors' chairs blazing new paths for others to follow.

No greater problem of *conservation of national resources* faces the American people than the conservation of intellects which are allowed to atrophy because of the stultifying influence of routine drudgery which comes to many who have chosen the path of science as undergraduates, only to find that the doors of advancement are locked to those who do not have the higher training represented by post-graduate

[1] SCIENCE, 68, 244–5, 1928.