

and science. His death is a profound loss and is mourned by his friends, associates and students who revere his memory.

W. C. MACTAVISH

RECENT DEATHS

DR. PAUL A. LEWIS, of the department of animal pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., who has been studying yellow fever in Brazil, died of the disease in Bahia on June 30. Dr. Lewis was born in Chicago in 1879, and held the medical degree of the University of Wisconsin. He was professor of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania from 1910 to 1923.

WILLIAM SYMES ANDREWS, an Englishman who came to the United States to work with Mr. Edison in 1879, and who for thirty-five years has been associated with the General Electric Company, especially in investigations on X-rays, died on July 6, in his eighty-second year.

DR. WILLIAM A. GIFFEN, a former president of the American Dental Association, has died at the age of sixty-three years.

THE death is announced at the age of sixty-eight years of Dr. Robert John Harvey-Gilson, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Liverpool.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE OPENING OF DOWN HOUSE

DOWN HOUSE, the home of Charles Darwin, at Downe, in Kent, which has been presented to the British Association by Mr. Buckston Browne as a national memorial of the great naturalist, was declared open to the public on June 7 by Sir Arthur Keith. The London *Times* reports that the opening was attended by a large company, who traveled to Downe from Burlington House in motor-omnibuses, the village being remotely situated, four miles from Orpington, the nearest railway station, and unserved by public conveyance. After leaving the high-road, the way to the house lies through miles of country lanes.

As the *Times* recalls, Down House was purchased for Darwin by his father, Dr. Darwin, and he took up his residence there on September 14, 1842. Darwin was then in his thirty-fourth year, and three years previously he had married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood. His reason for moving into the country was, as he said, that attendance at scientific societies and ordinary social duties in London threw too great a strain on his rather indifferent health.

Darwin worked continuously at Down House for almost forty years. Preparations for the "Origin of Species" went on from 1842 until the work received its final form in 1858-59. As has been well said, from Down Charles Darwin shook the world and gave human thought an impress which will endure for all time. Down was also the home of a large and happy family, perhaps the most gifted family ever born in England. There the great naturalist died on April 19, 1882, in his seventy-fourth year.

Mr. Buckston Browne has preserved numerous articles associated with Darwin's daily life. Among them are the snuff-jar which Darwin kept, not in his study but in the hall, in the vain hope of breaking himself of the habit, and the grand piano on which

Mrs. Darwin used to play when her husband came to the drawing-room after his regular periods of two hours' work. In the study is his circular revolving writing table fitted with many drawers, and his chair. In other rooms there are replicas of the portraits of Darwin and Huxley, painted by Mr. John Collier, commissioned by Mr. Buckston Browne. The bust of Darwin by Mr. Charles Hartwell, R.A., now in the Royal Academy, is to be removed to Down House as a present from Dr. Joseph Leidy, representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Another interesting gift is the microscope given by Darwin to John Lubbock (afterwards Lord Avebury) when he was a boy.

Sir William Bragg, president of the British Association, presided at the opening and addresses were made by Mr. Buckston Browne, Sir Arthur Keith, Dr. Joseph Leidy, representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Professor R. Anthony, representing France.

THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH ASSOCIATIONS AT HAVRE¹

IN 1914, while the British Association was meeting in Australia, the delegates of the corresponding societies were invited as guests at the conference of L'Association Française pour l'Avancement des Sciences, then being held at Havre. Those who were present will remember the hospitable way in which they were entertained at the Hotel Frascati, at the meetings and excursions, though as day by day passed there seemed to be something mysterious going on; the hotel gradually emptied, there were signs and whisperings, the members were impressed by the enormous accumulation of foodstuffs in the warehouses, and before the meeting was closed the declaration of war explained a good deal. The members had to find their way back

¹ *Nature*.