

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

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#### 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 HAVRE<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> *Nature*.

to England as best they could, and those who had the experience will never forget it.

The French Association, towards the end of July this year, again meets at Havre, and as the principal members of the British Association will then be at South Africa, our French colleagues have again extended the courtesy of inviting the other members of the British Association to attend its conference at Havre without any extra fee beyond the ordinary subscription to the British Association, which would be paid in any case.

In addition, the French Association has invited the delegates of the corresponding societies to hold their conference during the Havre meeting, and in connection with this a subcommittee was appointed consisting of the president of the Conference of Delegates, Dr. F. A. Bather; the secretary, Dr. C. Tierney, and the acting secretary for the Havre meeting, Mr. T. Sheppard. Sir Henry G. Lyons was also appointed the official representative of the British Association and chairman of the organizing committee referred to.

At the Glasgow meeting of the British Association, Dr. A. Loir, whose courtesy was so much appreciated in 1914, was present and gave an official invitation to the general committee of the British Association and was prepared to do the same for the conference of delegates, but apparently that body was too fully occupied to spare the necessary time. Mr. T. Sheppard has recently visited Havre and met the chairman of the local committee (the English consul, Mr. H. C. Swan), Dr. Loir, and others interested in the local arrangements. The Hôtel des Sociétés Savantes, next to the Lycée de Garçons, where the meetings of the French Association will be held, has been generously placed at the disposal of the British Association for any special meetings, etc. These rooms provide a general meeting room for the delegates, a committee room, and an exhibition room. During the conference, Dr. Bather will give an address on museum matters to a section of the French Association, and Dr. Pullein will speak on radiology at the request of the association. The conference of delegates will be held at 5 P. M. on July 26, when the question of the Channel Tunnel from both engineering and geological points of view will be discussed. The British committee is arranging an exhibition of air photographs, regional survey maps, etc.

The French Association commences its program on Thursday, July 25, at 11 A. M., when the opening session will be held at the Grand Theater. In the afternoon is the organization of the sections, and in the evening a reception by the corporation at the Town Hall. On Friday, July 26, there will be papers and discussions; visit to exhibitions organized at the

Lycée de Garçons of natural sciences by the Geological Society of Normandy and the Linnean Society of the Seine Maritime, and exhibits by the civil engineering, dentistry, meteorological sections, etc.; visit to the Port and a liner, and a conference at the Grand Theater. On Saturday, July 27, there will be a visit to the English exhibitions and museum; visit to the museum at Old Honfleur, and a public conference in the Franklin Hall. Sunday, July 28, will be occupied by a general excursion to Fécamp, and the unveiling of a monument to Dr. Léon Dufour. On Monday, July 29, further discussions, visits to various buildings, and in the afternoon an excursion to the Art Gallery and New Archeological Museum at Gravelle Abbey. In the evening there will be a soirée at the Municipal Casino or on a liner. Tuesday will be occupied by papers and discussions and the closing session. On Wednesday, July 31, and Thursday and Friday, August 1 and 2, there will be final excursions to Grouville, Lisieux, Caen, Bayeux, Mont St. Michel, and Rouen and district.

Inquiries in reference to the meeting should be addressed to Mr. T. Sheppard, at the Museum, Hull, or to Dr. A. Loir, Comité Local, Hôtel de Ville, Le Havre, France.

#### THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the annual dinner in London of the Royal Geographical Society held on June 24, Sir Charles Close, president of the society presided, and Prince George made the principal address.

The council of the society made the following awards:

MURCHISON GRANT to Mr. C. S. Elton, for his three seasons' study of the distribution of life in Spitsbergen, which has added materially to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of the flora and fauna of that country. Mr. Elton has taken an important part in the expedition from Oxford University which has been studying the distribution of life in Arctic regions.

BACK GRANT to Mr. C. P. Visser, for his exploration of the Hunza-Karakoram glaciers. This was described as a piece of geographical work long overdue. As Mr. and Mrs. Visser were believed to be on yet another expedition on the Indian border, it was not certain that they were yet aware of this recognition of their services.

GILL MEMORIAL to Mr. George Dyott, for his recent expedition in search of Colonel Fawcett, of whom nothing had been heard since a few weeks after he left Cuyaba in May, 1925, on his long-considered expedition in the most difficult region of Matto Grosso. What Mr. Dyott learnt on his journey goes very far, it was feared, towards establishing the fact that Colonel Fawcett and his son and Mr. Raleigh Rimell were killed by hostile Indians. The Gill Memorial was established by Miss Gill in memory of the gallant brother who lost his life in the Syrian Desert with Professor Palmer some 45 years ago.