

the part he took in developing the comparative anatomical collection of Princeton University.

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### RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR FRANK AUSTIN GOOCH, professor emeritus of chemistry at Yale University, died on August 12 in his seventy-eighth year.

DR. GEORGE P. MERRILL, head curator of geology died suddenly on August 16. Dr. Merrill was seventy-five years old.

DR. ANDREW A. KERR, head of the department of anthropology in the University of Utah, died on August 15 at the age of forty-nine years.

ALFRED HUTCHINSON COWLES, metallurgist and inventor, president of the Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company at Sewaren, N. J., died on August 13 at the age of seventy years.

SIR EDWIN RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S., formerly director of the South Kensington Museum and for sixteen years professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the University of London, died on August 15 at the age of eighty-two years.

PROFESSOR WALTER GEOFFREY DUFFIELD, of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mount Stromo, of which he had been director since its foundation, died on August 3.

THE deaths are also announced of Dr. John Nicol Farquhar, professor of comparative religion in the University of Manchester; of Sir William J. Thompson, past-president of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and for many years registrar-general for Ireland; of Dr. Hermann Wagener, professor of geology at the University of Göttingen; of Dr. Richard Lorenz, professor of chemistry at Frankfurt a.m., and of Dr. Charles Moureu, professor of chemistry in the Collège de France.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### BIRD SANCTUARIES IN LONDON

THE report of the Committee on Sanctuaries in Royal Parks contains not only reports of its observers on the different parks, but a review of the progress of bird-life in the sanctuaries since they were established seven years ago.

Referring to Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, the report, as abstracted in the *London Times*, says that, owing to their situation in the heart of an enormous urban area and to the extent to which they are frequented by the public, these parks can not be expected to compare with the outer parks in the variety and number of their wild birds. In the matter of bird-life the inner parks generally have suffered most from the rapid expansion of London in latter years, and will do so increasingly so long as that process continues. It is feared that in their case, as London goes on spreading, the number of species to be seen will decrease, and that all that can be done is to retard the diminution, a task in which the sanctuaries are undoubtedly rendering very valuable service.

Since the establishment of the sanctuaries representatives of over eighty species of wild birds have been observed in Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens—fifty-one species which are to be seen in this country throughout the year, twenty-four species which are summer visitors and nine which are winter visitors. The number of species nesting within the area has averaged about seventeen a year. The list for 1928 is as follows: Blackbird, chaffinch, ringdove (wood pig-

eon), tufted duck, spotted flycatcher, greenfinch, mallard, moorhen, redbreast, hedge sparrow, house sparrow, starling, missel thrush, song thrush, blue tit and great tit.

Years ago Kensington Gardens contained the main rookery of London, but rooks, which require a wide foraging area of soil, have for years past found the task of supporting themselves in inner London beyond their power, and they are not expected to breed there again. Jackdaws, too, a small contingent of which still haunts Kensington Gardens, are giving up the struggle against the growth of London, and, although a few nested in the gardens up to 1926, it is feared that they no longer do so.

On the other hand, the wood pigeon, which formerly was rarely seen in this area, has found conditions to its liking and has clearly come to stay, while the mallard and moorhen are also increasing. The great crested grebe, which was at one time unknown in these parks, now visits the Serpentine or Round Pond every year. The chaffinch, a bird formerly seldom found in these parks except in bitter weather, is now to be seen there throughout the year, and nests regularly in fair numbers. The goldfinch visits Kensington Gardens more often of late, probably attracted by the teasels which have been planted in the sanctuary. The greenfinch also comes to the central parks more frequently than it did a few years ago, and has recently nested there. The meadow pipit is often to be seen, and at any time of the year.