friends and acquaintances, and subscriptions in any amount are invited.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry reports that the debt of modern science and industry to Karl Wilhelm Scheele, distinguished Swedish chemist and discoverer of glycerol, was recognized at the annual meeting in Chicago on December 11 of the Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers, representing the leading soap manufacturers of the country. The association sent to Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, honorary member of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden, a message felicitating him on the part played by his country in the development of glycerol products. December 19 marked the one hundred and eighty-seventh anniversary of Scheele's birth, and 1930 marks the sesquicentennial of his discovery.

THE London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes: "Sir Patrick Manson, who died in 1922, established the principle of the insect transmission of disease, and at the international medical congress held in London in 1913 he was acclaimed the father of tropical medicine. In 1907, with the help of Cantlie and others, he founded the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, of which he was the first president. Among its fellows, now numbering 1,500 of many nationalities, are those most distinguished in tropical medicine. Its work is hindered by lack of suitable premises. The society has decided to found a home and name it after Manson, to whom at present there is no memorial. The fellows and some friends have subscribed $30,000 toward the purpose and are appealing for $100,000 to which they believe that many outside the small professional circle of tropical medicine who know of Manson's labors as a leader of medicine and one of the world's benefactors will desire to subscribe. His great work began in Amoy in 1877 with his demonstration that the filaria of elephantiasis is transmitted by certain mosquitoes. This was no chance discovery but the result of labor done in isolation. So his conviction that malaria was transmitted by mosquitoes was no inspired guess but was founded on his long critical watching of the malarial parasite in human blood and led Ross to the final victory. Donations will be gratefully received by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W 1."

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FLETCHER BASCOM DRESSLAR, professor of school hygiene in the Peabody College for Teachers, died on January 19, at the age of seventy-one years. Dr. Dresslar had been president of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences.

PHILIP NORTH MOORE, consulting geologist and mining engineer, president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers in 1917, died on January 20 at the age of eighty years.

STEPHEN TYNG MATHER, who was director of national parks in the Department of the Interior, died on January 22 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. CAROLINE A. BLACK, who had been twelve years on the faculty of Connecticut College, latterly as associate professor of botany and chairman of that department, died on January 19 at Cincinnati, Ohio, of spinal meningitis. She was taken ill when returning from the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting at Des Moines.

HUGH LONGBOURNE CALLENDAR, professor of physics at the Imperial College of Science, London, died on January 23, at the age of sixty-six years. He was distinguished for his work in connection with the measurement of the heat radiation of steam at high pressure. Dr. Callendar was professor of physics at McGill University from 1893 to 1898.

MAJOR PERCY ALEXANDER MACMAHON, F.R.S., the distinguished English mathematician, died on Christmas Day at his residence at Bognor, at the age of seventy-five years.

DR. DE FERRANTI, electrical engineer, inventor and manufacturer, died on January 14 at the age of sixty-five years. Dr. Ferranti was a past president of the British Society of Electrical Engineers. He was awarded the Faraday Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1924, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1927. The University of Manchester gave him the honorary degree of D.Sc. in 1911.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

COMMISSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

IN its report of the congress *Nature* states that during the session a series of meetings was held in connection with the various international commissions, the work of which is an important feature in the life of the congress. In the end, several commissions had to be reconstituted, one new commission and one subcommission were established, while of the previous bodies, one (iron ores) was dissolved, so that the Congress now has the following commissions: Prix Spendiaroff (awarded to Dr. L. T. Nel, geologist on the Geological Survey of the Union of South Africa), Palæontologia Universalis, Lexicon de Stratigraphie, Glaciers, L'Homme Fossile, Croûte Terrestre, Géophysique et Géothermique, Carte de l'Europe, Carte

de la Terre, Distribution of the Karroo (Gondwana) System; to these was added the subcommission of African Surveys.

It is said that since the last meeting of the congress, in Spain during 1926, much useful work has been accomplished by the two map commissions, under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Krusch, president of the Geological Survey of Prussia. The one for the map of Europe on the scale of 1:1,500,000 was founded at Bologna in 1881, and shortly after the Toronto congress in 1913 completed its task by publishing the last sheet, and the preparation of a new edition was afterwards decided upon. The indispensable preliminary work of agreeing upon the best color scheme was completed at a meeting of the commission held in Berlin last February, and during the South African meeting Dr. W. Schriel (general secretary of the commission) exhibited two advance sheets of the new edition, in their original form; the great beauty of the color scheme and the excellence of the draftsmanship were much admired by many members. One section of the new edition is ready for the press and further sections are expected to appear at the rate of two in each year.

The publication of the International Map of the World on the scale of 1:5,000,000 was decided upon at the Stockholm congress in 1910, and the color scheme drafted at the Berlin meeting referred to, two sections embracing the Union of South Africa being afterwards prepared; they were presented at the Pretoria meeting. For the next congress it was agreed to prepare a few North American sections.

The final editing is to be done at Berlin (as was formerly the case) in order to secure uniformity of issue, for which purpose a special bureau has been established at Berlin. Dr. P. Krusch (chairman of both map commissions) was able to announce the fortunate circumstance that the means for the printing of both maps have been made available by Prussia, so that in due course the sheets will be obtainable through the Geological Survey of that country.

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

THE states of North Carolina and Tennessee have notified the secretary of the interior that they have acquired and are ready to turn over to him a minimum of 150,000 acres of land in what is ultimately to constitute the Great Smoky Mountain National Park on their border line. Representatives of these two states, including their governors and attorneys general, and members of their park commissions, will go to Washington on February 6 and formally tender to Secretary Wilbur the title to this initial area, duly passed and warranted by the states.

This action on the part of these two states will mark the first delivery of Great Smoky Mountain park land to the government and the first concrete step toward the actual consummation of the project. It will constitute the first physical transfer of land to the government and mark the passing of the Great Smoky Mountain project from a theoretical conception to an actual accomplishment. It means that the government actually will have received a tract of land more than twice as big as the District of Columbia as a nucleus around which to develop a model wilderness area into a national park of the east.

The law which provided for the creation of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Shenandoah National Park made their acceptance by the government conditional upon the presentation of complete title to the land. The states must acquire the land and deliver it to the federal government. It would then be placed under the National Park Service for administration and development.

Investigations had shown there were practically 704,000 acres of land in the Great Smoky Mountain district, an area as big as Rhode Island, that was suitable for park purposes. The law provided that when a minimum of 150,000 acres of this land was presented to the government, it should be accepted and that the government should thereafter administer and protect it. This, however, was to be but a nucleus of the contemplated park.

The law further provided that the states must acquire and present to the federal government, in addition to this 150,000 acres, the majority of the remaining available park land in this section. That available remaining land amounts to 554,000 acres. Half of it would be 277,000 acres which must yet be acquired by the states and presented to the federal government before it will consider the park area adequate and proceed with its actual development. It will accept the lesser area for administration and protection, but not for development. When it has received a minimum of 427,000 acres from the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, an area as big as seven Districts of Columbia, the National Park Service will proceed to develop it on a basis comparable to that used at Yellowstone, Yosemite and other of the great national parks in the west.

The acquisition of the minimum acreage required before development work may begin seems assured. The states of North Carolina and Tennessee between them have raised, in round numbers, nearly $5,000,000 to be used in the purchase of this land. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial has contributed an additional amount, but not exceeding $5,000,000, which is also available for the purchase of land. These