

## RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR HECTOR J. HUGHES, dean since 1920 of the Harvard University School of Engineering, died on March 1, at the age of fifty-nine years.

MARY WHITON CALKINS, professor of philosophy and psychology at Wellesley College, past president of the American Psychological Association and of the American Philosophical Association, died on February 27, in her sixty-seventh year. Dr. Calkins had been associated since 1888 with Wellesley College, where she established one of the first laboratories of psychology.

DR. JOSEPH M. HIRSH, formerly teacher of chemistry at Cooper Union, New York City, who is said to have discovered the process for the recovery of sugar from beet-roots, died on February 13 at the age of eighty-seven years.

DR. JOHANNES GOVERTUS DE MAN, of Yerseke, Holland, died at Middelburg on January 19, at the age of seventy-nine years. He was a foremost carcinologist

and had published several hundred valuable contributions on Crustacea. He was formerly conservator of the Rijks Museum of Natural History of Leyden, officer of the Order of Oranje-Nassau and officer of the Order of Cambodje.

## MEMORIALS

MRS. PRINCE has given \$15,000 for the building and endowment fund of the Boston Medical Library as a memorial to the late Dr. Morton Prince.

A MEMORIAL plaque to the late Sir William Glyn-Jones, formerly secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, who died on September 9, 1927, was unveiled in the society's examination hall by the Right Honorable Christopher Addison on February 5.

TRIBUTE to the memory of the French mathematician, Pierre de Fermat, is to be paid by the French Academy of Sciences, whose members have ordered his bust to be placed between two other great mathematicians of his period, Descartes and Pascal.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND

AN investigation into the present state of English agriculture has been completed by the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the University of Oxford.

The London *Times* states that the report of the investigation, which has just been issued, points out that

over a large part of the country considerable difficulty will be experienced in finding any farm to be let, and, moreover, when one is to become vacant, there are perhaps dozens of applications for it. Even the moderately intelligent observer can scarcely fail to ask himself the reason. Is it probable that only the best farms come into the market? That is scarcely credible, because the good farms are too rare to be lightly vacated. Is it only the poorer and more inconvenient, in fact the marginal farms, which are changing hands, and, if so, is it to be supposed that there are so many men, men who have been born to the land and know of its present difficulties, who are anxious to plunge themselves and their families into financial perdition?

What is true beyond all question, is that in some parts of England there is not a farm to be let, and only by offering him a figure in excess of market prices can the tenant be persuaded to give up his holding—he credits a large amount of his assets to good-will. It is equally true that in other parts of England there are farms being carried on by the owners for want of any tenant, farms which have been offered rent free for two and three years without success, and still no working farmers will come forward to invest their capital in them. In other words,

although our national agriculture can not be considered prosperous, yet, at the same time, to affirm its general depression is both unwise and untrue. The problem is essentially one of districts, of types of farm and types of farming. For the purposes of the inquiry it was deemed that the course of farm rents, combined with a consideration of the demand for farms or the difficulty of obtaining tenants, in this district or that, would show for England what the rural land market might show in another country.

From the information thus obtained it is declared by the report that depression can not be said to exist in the west, and, conversely, the returns from the eastern parts of the country show the hardships under which the farming community is laboring. English agriculture is not suffering from one simple disease, and there is no one simple remedy which can be applied. The report concludes that:

(1) Some commodities, such as milk and market garden stuffs, are produced, owing to their highly perishable nature, under naturally protected conditions. Where advantage is taken of this natural protection farmers find themselves on a substantial basis of prosperity. Further, where immediate proximity to a consuming center makes it possible to combine production with direct retailing the farmer is peculiarly fortunate, and the complaint is less of depressed agriculture than of depressed industry and the consequent contracted purchasing power of the consumer.

(2) Other commodities, such as corn and meat, enjoy no such natural protection or marketing advantages, but