

found time to be the president of the first golf club organized at the university. Later in life driving an automobile was his favorite pastime, and he often chuckled at a comment on his arrest for speeding on his eightieth birthday. He was married in 1873 to Clara Shaw Gaston, whose death only a few weeks ago was a heavy blow to him. His son, Dr. E. B.

Forbes, of State College, Pennsylvania, has already achieved distinction in science. Three daughters also survive, Mrs. B. R. Herring, of Chicago; Mrs. F. W. Scott, of Boston, and Miss Winifred Forbes, of Berkeley, California.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE UNIVERSITY FILM FOUNDATION OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

THERE has been established at Cambridge a University Film Foundation, by the aid of a gift made last fall by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The foundation is able to make completely both silent and talking films in their plant. A sound-proof studio has been installed, and in connection with it a complete sound-on-film recording equipment, loaned to them by the R. C. A. Photophone. The studio could serve as a center for radio broadcasting, since the acoustic treatment it has received fits it for this purpose.

In addition, the foundation is installing a disc-recording machine which will be employed for transferring the sound-on-film to discs, so that the films will be available with both methods. This machine can be used for making phonograph records and records for broadcasting.

A well-equipped laboratory has been built for developing and printing the films, both standard-width and 16-millimeter size. Mr. Rockefeller's gift has also enabled the provision of more adequate working quarters, editorial rooms and offices for the staff.

During the past six months the foundation has nearly doubled its staff, which now numbers more than twenty persons. In addition to a personnel with college background, specially trained for production and editorial work, the foundation has specialists, such as a sound-engineer, projectionists and a laboratory man.

With this staff and equipment the foundation stands in a position where it can apply modern inventions and technical processes to educational methods. Already, with its previous limited facilities, the foundation has made a large number of educational films in a number of fields. By last September, after one year of existence, the foundation had released twenty reels of films in the fields of geography, biology, anthropology and the fine arts.

The foundation is about to start making a photographic record of eminent professors and personalities connected with the university. This is in line with their work on the Harvard Film, a general descriptive film of the university which they completed last year. That film was, however, silent, and the

new films will be talking films. It is planned not only to record the professors' speaking, but also to show them illustrating their experiments and making demonstrations of scientific materials. A talking film on Massachusetts history, with Professor Albert Bushnell Hart depicting the development of the commonwealth, is now all but completed.

### THE U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

A BILL for the reorganization of the U. S. Public Health Service has passed both houses of Congress and now goes to the President. Another bill has just been passed by the Senate, but has not yet been passed by the House, providing for the creation of a National Institute of Health, which would greatly expand the facilities for health work by the U. S. Public Health Service. A system of fellowships and provision for accepting donations for special work, such as research work on cancer, is a part of this National Health Institute plan.

Science Service reports that the Jones bill provides for putting the federal health service on a basis which will make it one of the best public health services in the world. There will be more regularly commissioned public health officers and a better chance for a young man in the service to look for promotion. A number of those now under the civil service would be given commissions. The bill aims to put all the public health work of the government departments under one coordinated management as well as to increase the number and kind of commissioned public health officers. Among the provisions of the bill are:

1. That whenever some branch of the government wishes to carry on a public health activity, the Secretary of the Treasury shall detail officers and employees from the Public Health Service to cooperate and direct the work.
2. Whenever special health problems should be studied and certain research or educational institutions have facilities for this study, the Surgeon-General may detail health officials and scientists from his staff to take up their quarters in such laboratories and work there.
3. Great expansion of the Hygienic Laboratory in the District of Columbia.