

known for his work on the fauna of Somaliland and the Red Sea, has died at the age of eighty-two years.

It is reported that I. M. Michaelovsky, professor of physiology in the Mid-Asiatic University at Tashkent, has died from suicide or murder.

*Nature* reports the death of Sir William M'Cor-

mick, chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the Advisory Council on Scientific and Industrial Research, on March 22, aged seventy years; and of Sir Edward Brabrook, a past president of the Royal Anthropological Institute, on March 20, aged ninety years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### A CHEMISTRY HOUSE IN LONDON

ACCORDING to the London *Times* the project to assemble all the chief chemical, metallurgical and mining societies in one new building at Westminster was outlined on March 27 by Professor J. F. Thorpe in his presidential address to the British Chemical Society at its annual meeting in Burlington House. He also put forward suggestions for securing ultimately a joint membership of the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry.

It is proposed that the central building for scientific and technical institutions shall be erected and equipped at a cost of £350,000, in Victoria Street, with the object of securing the close association between the scientific societies of the industries which has already been achieved in America and is in process of realization in France. The building will have a large common lecture hall and a library of about 70,000 volumes. It is intended also to provide club facilities.

In his address, as reported in the *Times*, Professor Thorpe spoke of the development in science and industry resulting from the application of lessons learned during the war. He said the spirit of cooperation or rationalization was causing many groups dealing with related subjects to join together in their own and in the national interests. It was certain that the next 20 years would witness a struggle for supremacy in scientific effort and in the industrial application of science throughout the world which would be even more intense than was the struggle between the contending nations during the war. It must be recognized that the separation into isolated units of the organization dealing with the scientific and technical development of the three basic industries was not in accordance with the existing state of scientific knowledge, and that the nation and empire could not utilize to the full the forces inherent in them unless some scheme could be devised by which close cooperation between these groups could be effected.

The need was urgent, because other nations, notably the French, were actively engaged in coordinating their chemical activities, and the Americans already had their Chemists' Club in New York. Unless, therefore, something was done, and that quickly, they would be handicapped in the struggle. It seemed

that at last they were in a fair way to realize the Chemistry House of their needs at a cost which was about half what would be necessary if chemists were forced to act alone. They must look to the industries concerned to provide the greater proportion of what was required. When the general appeal was issued it would contain a list of definite promises amounting to £130,000, including some munificent personal donations, such as £10,000 from Mr. Robert Mond, £1,000 from Mr. Emile Mond and £1,000 from Sir Robert Hadfield. A petition had been sent to the chancellor of the exchequer asking for a Treasury contribution. The answer, however, was "*non possumus*," although sympathy was expressed with the object in view.

Professor Thorpe then discussed proposals for the first steps towards a union of the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry. He said it would probably require twelve months' work on the part of the joint committee to elaborate all the necessary details and explore every avenue leading in the desired direction.

### A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE WESTINGHOUSE RESEARCH LABORATORIES

THE first meeting of the recently created Scientific Advisory Board of the Westinghouse Research Laboratories was held in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on April 16. The aim of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in establishing this board is to bring before their specialists recent scientific research.

The members of the board are: Dr. P. W. Bridgman, head of the department of physics at Harvard University; Dr. G. B. Waterhouse, head of the department of metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chairman of the ferrous advisory committee of the U. S. Bureau of Standards; Dr. C. E. Mendenhall, head of the department of physics at the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Stephen Timoshenko, head of the school of advanced mechanics at the University of Michigan, who formerly worked for four years at the Westinghouse Laboratories, and Dr. Edward Mack, Jr., professor of physical chemistry in the Ohio State University.

It is planned that the board shall meet three times a year and that the individual members will follow closely all research work conducted by the company and act in an advisory capacity on matters concerned with pure science.

In a statement made by Mr. S. M. Kintner, manager of the laboratories, he says: "It is our purpose that the board members advise us along purely scientific lines. We expect them to stimulate our research specialists by their suggestions, to bring up-to-the-minute theories into our work and to act as a check on the scientific work upon which we are engaged."

Some members of the board will serve for one year and the others have been appointed for two-year terms. Thus, as changes are made in the personnel, there always will be members who have served for at least one year.

Plans now are being carried through for the enlargement of the present laboratories. An addition to the present building which will nearly triple the floor space is under construction at a cost of \$500,000. The addition, which includes a large power house, will centralize the laboratories, some of which through lack of space have been forced to find quarters in the main plant.

#### THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE Illinois State Geological Survey through Dr. M. M. Leighton, chief, announces the celebration of its quarter-centennial anniversary. The celebration will be held in Urbana, on April 30 and May 1, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Illinois Academy of Science on May 2 and 3, and will include two symposia, one on "Research Needs of Illinois' Coal Industry," and the other on "Studies Relating to the Order and Conditions of Accumulation of the Coal Measures." Many state and academic geologists have signified their intentions of being present, since the topics of discussion have wide-spread applications.

The proceedings will open with the dedication by Dr. Edson S. Bastin of the Quarter-Centennial Program to the memory of T. C. Chamberlin and R. D. Salisbury.

The dedication will be followed by a historical retrospect of geological investigations in Illinois and their relations to the state, when the speakers and subjects will be:

*Investigations previous to the founding of the present State Geological Survey:* PROFESSOR C. W. ROLFE.

*The initiation of the State Geological Survey:* DR. H. FOSTER BAIN.

*The State Geological Survey during the period 1909-1923:* MR. FRANK W. DEWOLF.

*The State Geological Survey during the period 1923-1930:* DR. M. M. LEIGHTON.

Speakers taking part in the symposium on the research needs of Illinois' coal industry will be Dr. M. S. Ketchum, Dr. J. A. Garcia, Dr. E. A. Holbrook, Dr. F. C. Honnold, Dr. S. W. Parr and Dr. Reinhardt Thiessen. Studies relating to the order and conditions of accumulation of the coal measures will be reported by Dr. J. Marvin Weller, Dr. H. R. Wanless, Dr. R. C. Moore, Dr. F. B. Plummer, Mr. Wilber Stout, Mr. David B. Reger, Dr. G. H. Ashley and Dr. David White.

Those who will take part in the discussions that will follow the symposia include Professors A. C. Willard, W. H. Severns and Dr. T. E. Savage, of the University of Illinois; Dr. Gilbert H. Cady, Illinois State Geological Survey; Dr. G. F. Kay, state geologist of Iowa and dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences, University of Iowa; Dr. H. A. Buehler, state geologist of Missouri; Dr. G. E. Condra, dean and director of the conservation and survey division, University of Nebraska; Dr. C. N. Gould, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, and others.

#### THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

THE annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society opened in Philadelphia on April 24. The Saturday night session commemorates the two hundred and third anniversary of the founding of the society by Benjamin Franklin, in April, 1727.

There will be a dinner on April 26 at the Bellevue-Stratford with Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins, explorer; Dr. James Rowland Angell, president of Yale University, and Dr. Edwin Grant Conklin, professor of zoology, Princeton, as speakers, and Dr. John H. Finley, of the *New York Times*, as toastmaster. Sir Hubert's subject will be "Seeking Useful Knowledge"; Dr. Angell's, "Promoting Useful Knowledge," and Dr. Conklin's, "The Service of Science to Mankind."

Papers and a report of progress will be presented in the "intellectual stock-taking" inaugurated last year by Dr. Francis X. Dercum, the president. All day-time sessions at which these papers will be read will be in the 141-year old hall of the society.

Papers on Thursday's program were read by Dr. Clinton J. Davison, Dr. Herbert E. Ives, both of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; Professor Arthur E. Kennelly, Harvard University; Professor Clyde Egleton, New York University; Professor Emory R. Johnson, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Alfred V. Kidder, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Professor William B. Scott and Dr. Glenn L. Jepsen, Princeton University, and Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, American Museum of Natural History.

The program for April 25 includes the annual ad-