RECENT DEATHS

DR. JESSE WALTER FEWKES, ethnologist of the Bureau of American Ethnology from 1895 to 1917 and from 1918 until his retirement in 1928 chief of the bureau, died on May 31 in his seventy-ninth year.

DR. GEORGE NEIL STEWART, professor of experimental medicine and director of the H. K. Cushing Laboratory of Experimental Medicine at Western Reserve University, died on May 28, at the age of seventy years.

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON PATTERSON, associate dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Michigan, died on May 22, at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. WOODS HUTCHINSON, physician and author, died on May 26, at Brookline, Massachusetts. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. BENJAMIN A. THOMAS, professor of urology in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, died on May 29, aged fifty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CONVERSAZIONES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE first of the two conversaziones given annually by the Royal Society was held at Burlington House on May 14, when the guests were received by the President, Sir Ernest Rutherford.

The exhibits, as described in the London *Times*, were scarcely as numerous as usual, and a large proportion of them came from various research institutions. The National Physical Laboratory, for instance, showed an apparatus for making friction and wear tests on pivots and jewels and a hygrometer for use in ships carrying refrigerated cargoes, while among examples of work it has carried out for the Radio Research Board it arranged a demonstration of the reception and recording of signals from the Orfordness rotating wireless beacon. The Building Research Station had on view a meter for investigating the flow of heat at a window into or out of a room, and the Research Department, Woolwich, exhibited a proposed method for the visual examination, by means of X-rays, of flaws in long cylinders, such as gun tubes or gas cylinders. The astronomical exhibits included two photographs from the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, of the new trans-Neptunian planet, which appeared as a minute black dot, and a recording microphotometer was sent jointly by the Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge, and the Cambridge Instrument Company.

Dr. L. J. Spencer, of the department of mineralogy of the Natural History Museum, showed experiments illustrating the luminescence of zinc-blende when scratched or struck—a property possessed by specimens from only a few localities—and Mr. G. C. Robson, of the zoological department, had a model of a remarkable ten-armed cephalopod, the only known specimens of which were obtained in 3,000 meters off the Cape Verde Islands and in the Pacific. The control of fungal wastage in citrus and other fruits, by maintaining a certain concentration of acetaldehyde vapor in the storage atmosphere, was illustrated by the Low Temperature Station, Cambridge, and the Forest Products Research Laboratory, by means of an instrument which measures the proportion of fibrous tissue in a sample of wood, showed how anatomical methods are applied to investigating the technical properties of timber.

General attention was attracted by a series of about 80 illuminated transparent photographs, taken by Dr. Pole Evans and hand-colored by Mrs. Pole Evans, representing different types of the natural scenery of South Africa. Professor E. N. da C. Andrade demonstrated the mechanism of ridge formation in sounding tubes, Mr. L. S. B. Leakey showed the Leakey-Harper drawing machine originally designed to facilitate the accurate detailed drawing of human skulls, Mr. R. S. Whipple sent a silver geographical globe engraved at Venice in the second half of the sixteenth century, and Sir Robert Hadfield, among other exhibits, had in operation an electric furnace with heating elements composed of a new heat-resisting alloy which enables temperatures as high as 1,200° C. to be maintained continuously.

Professor D. M. S. Watson gave the usual illustrated lecture, his subject being the flight of pterodactyls.

RESEARCH BUILDING OF THE MELLON INSTITUTE

DR. EDWARD R. WEIDLEIN, director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, has announced, speaking for the Board of Trustees, that the institution is to increase its facilities by a building project for its research activities. Detailed plans are now being prepared by the architects, Janssen and Cocken, of Pittsburgh, and construction will begin as soon as the drawings are completed. The Mellon-Stuart Company, also of Pittsburgh, is the general contractor.

When the present home of the institute was completed, in 1915, it was felt that the industrial fellowship procedure created by Robert Kennedy Duncan had passed from the experimental to the practical