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

stage. The building, which was given to the institution by Andrew W. and Richard B. Mellon, incorporated the best laboratory constructional features of that period. It was thought then that it would provide adequate space for growth for many years; but for practically ten years the institute has had a waiting list of companies, often almost as long as the roster of companies whose problems were being investigated. Even the additional space afforded by Building No. 2, acquired in 1927, gave but temporary relief.

In addition to providing a greatly increased number of laboratories, the new building will give larger quarters for the general departments. The present library contains 11,000 volumes; the new library is planned to accommodate 250,000 volumes. The present department of research in pure chemistry will be expanded and facilities for pure research in other branches of science will be provided. Much more elaborate chemical engineering laboratories are to be available in the new building, and also the fellowships in each specific field of industrial research are to be grouped in suites of rooms. Certain rooms will be equipped for specialized phases of experimental technique, such as electrochemistry, spectroscopy, low-temperature studies, radiations, high-pressure experimentation, etc. Other features are a large lecture hall, a dining hall, an industrial fellowship museum and an underground garage. For the past five years members of the institute's executive staff have been visiting laboratories in America and Europe to obtain information on new features in design and equipment.

The building will be of Greek design, seven stories high, with monolithic columns along all four sides. The proportions will be approximately 300 feet by 400 feet. The main entrance, which is on the third floor, is reached by steps extending along the entire front of the building. The laboratories are to face on interior courts. The design is to be such that additional laboratory suites can be constructed in the interior courts without marring the appearance and without interfering with the original laboratory units.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE KIDNEY IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

THE University of Minnesota Medical School is issuing invitations to an interesting experiment in scientific coordination, a Symposium on the Kidney in Health and Disease, to take place at the University Hospital in Minneapolis from July 7 to 18.

Dealing with a relatively well-defined subject, but with the program occupying not less than ten working days and listing a considerable number of speakers of distinction, the symposium aims at a presentation and integration of the motley collection of material from anatomy, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, ophthalmology, internal medicine and pharmacology that make up our knowledge of Bright's disease. No attempt will be made to present the entire knowledge of the kidney in health and disease, but an effort will be made to discuss those chapters where our knowledge has recently been extended in an important way or where progress has been difficult to achieve, but investigative efforts are intense. The program is composed of papers, clinics and round table discussions. Among the different topics we pick at random the relationship between kidney structure and function, nutrition and bodily growth (G. C. Huber, C. M. Jackson, R. E. Scammon), comparative anatomy and physiology (E. K. Marshall, H. L. White), nature of glomerular function and theory of kidney secretion (A. N. Richards, P. Rehberg from Professor Krogh's laboratory, Copenhagen), chemical functions of the kidney (J. L. Gamble), functional tests (L. G. Rowntree, P. Rehberg, F. Hinman), the problem of edema (A. D. Hirschfelder, L. Leiter, B. Hastings, P. Rehberg), the pathological anatomy of Bright's disease (E. T. Bell), its clinical manifestations (F. Volhard of Frankfort on Main, I. Snapper of Amsterdam, W. T. Longcope), the retinal changes in nephritis (H. P. Wagener), uremia (F. Volhard, Butler of K. D. Blackfan's Clinic), diuretics and treatment (R. N. Bieter, L. G. Rowntree, N. M. Keith, F. Volhard).

The final program will be issued shortly. Information in regard to the symposium may be obtained from Dr. Hilding Berglund, University Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Accommodations for visitors are being provided through the university.

THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at the University of Oregon from June 18 to 21.

The "Origin of Land Plants" is the subject of the annual president's address by Dr. Douglas H. Campbell, of Stanford University, which will be given on Wednesday morning.

A review of the progress of research on the Pacific coast and in the far west will open the session Wednesday afternoon, June 18. Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt, dean of the University of Oregon medical school in Portland, and Dr. C. B. Lipman, University of California, will survey the field of the life sciences. Dr. J. A. Anderson, of the Mount Wilson Observa-