

RECENT DEATHS

DR. W. S. FRANKLIN, who retired last year from the professorship of physics and electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was killed in an automobile accident on June 6. Dr. Franklin was driving north from Florida, where he had served during the winter as visiting professor at Rollins College. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. A. R. CROOK, who for twenty-four years has been chief of the Illinois State Museum at Springfield, Illinois, died on May 30 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. H. J. B. FRY, pathologist at the Cancer Hospital, London, died on May 5 from an infection acquired at a post-mortem examination. He was forty-four years of age.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PROPOSED SUBTROPICAL NATIONAL PARK IN FLORIDA

SECRETARY WILBUR, of the Department of the Interior, has announced that the departmental committee of experts designated by him to make an examination of the availability of the Everglades in the Cape Sable region of Florida for a subtropical national park has completed its investigation, and would report that the project measured up to the high standards prescribed for national park establishment.

He stated that the prospective educational value of the area equals at least, if it may not exceed, that of any existing national park, and that the area should be preserved to protect the primitive character of the country and its abounding wild life so that it may be enjoyed in its natural state by future generations as well as those of our time. For these reasons, he said, he would himself recommend it to Congress for approval as a project.

The committee of experts consisted of Director Horace M. Albright and Associate Director Arno B. Cammerer, of the National Park Service; E. K. Burlew, administrative assistant to the secretary, and acting as the latter's personal representative; Superintendent Roger W. Toll, of the Yellowstone National Park; Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, of the American Association of Museums; Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and Dr. M. W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

The detailed official report embodying the committee's recommendations is in course of preparation. The announcement says:

The Cape Sable region of Florida, site of this pros-

MEMORIALS

To commemorate the life and work of Dr. Herbert Steuer, on the second anniversary of his death, the Steuer Memorial Prize was awarded to William A. Sommerfield, a junior in the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University. Dr. Steuer was electrocuted on June 6, 1928, while making an X-ray examination of a patient. Friends of his established the memorial, the income from which goes each year to an investigator who does meritorious work in the department of anatomy of Western Reserve University.

THE Cole Library, in memory of the late Professor Alfred Dodge Cole, in the Mendenhall Laboratory of the Ohio State University, was opened for the use of students and faculty, with the spring quarter. The library will be supported by a fund of \$50,000 which is being collected by engineers and other alumni who are particularly interested in physics. More than \$22,000 has already been pledged.

pective national park, is fifty miles nearer the equator than any other section in the United States and presents an area of tropical America in flora and fauna encountered nowhere else in the United States. One interesting observation made generally by the members of the committee was that their original conception of the Everglades as an impassable tropical jungle, festooned with lianas and with miasmatic swamps, full of alligators, crocodiles and venomous snakes, was entirely shattered by their views of extensive coastal prairies and tropical hammocks. The inspection was made by dirigible, and by motor boats and skiffs.

EXPEDITION TO GREENLAND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. HOBBS, of the geology department of the University of Michigan, while remaining in Ann Arbor, will direct a fourth expedition to Greenland, made possible through a recent gift of \$5,000 by the Carnegie Institution of Washington for a twelve months' continuance of earlier studies. Professor Hobbs will direct the work partly by wireless.

Plans are under way for the establishment of two aerological stations—one in Ivigtut, on the western coast of south Greenland, and another in Anmagsalik, in southeastern Greenland, both south of the Arctic Circle. The Michigan observers will cooperate with Professor Alfred Wegener, who has already reached Greenland at the head of a large expedition which includes twenty scientists.

Professor Wegener will establish three similar stations stretching in a line across the ice cap of Greenland in the latitude of Umanak. One of these stations will be situated on the top of the ice cap and near the remote center of the continent. All five stations will

be operated simultaneously for the period of a year, affording, for the first time, a comprehensive study of the circulation of the atmosphere above Greenland—the glacial anticyclone. The work of Dr. Wegener has been stimulated by that of the University of Michigan Greenland Expeditions and will be devoted to the same end.

Evans S. Schmelling and William S. Carlson, of the department of geology, both of whom have taken part in the former expeditions to Greenland, will be sent to the two stations. The American-Scandinavian Foundation recently awarded to Mr. Carlson a scholarship which will enable him to study, in connection with his other scientific work, the possibilities for establishing a seaplane station on the northern airplane route to Europe. Max H. Demorest, of Flint, Michigan, will accompany the two members of the expedition, as assistant.

Necessary instruments for the work will be loaned by the United States Weather Bureau. Transportation for Mr. Schmelling has been planned through the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Salt Company, operators of a ship ore line between Philadelphia and Ivigtut. The Cryolite Mining Company, which operates a mine at the site in Greenland, will provide his food and living quarters for the year.

On all clear days members of the expedition will send up pilot balloons and follow their paths with the theodolite so as to discover the force and direction of the wind at all levels up to the place the balloon passes out of sight. Dr. Wegener will be sending out similar pilot balloons at his stations.

THE PAN-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

NORTH AMERICA will meet Latin America in Washington next September for discussion of the problems of agriculture that affect or are common to the two continents. Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which is cooperating with the Department of State and the Pan American Union in preparing for this Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Industry, believe it promises to be at least as important as any previous gathering for any other purpose in which the two continents have joined forces. The conference, which will be held at Washington from September 8 to 20, will be devoted to practical problems of agriculture, giving special attention to agricultural problems of an economic and scientific nature.

Called in accordance with a resolution of the Sixth International Conference of American States at Havana in February, 1928, the coming assembly will be the first Pan-American gathering to deal exclusively with questions related to agriculture. This subject has been on the program of several of the Pan-American scientific and commercial congresses,

and a group of the nations concerned has discussed various phases of the problem at other meetings, but at no previous conference has an attempt been made to cover such a wide range of agricultural topics or to consider in such a comprehensive way plans looking to the scientific and economic development of agriculture and its related industries throughout all the nations of the Americas.

Problems of inter-continental concern will be discussed in their broadest scope and with a view to formulating basic plans for effective continental cooperation in the development of the agricultural industries. Both governmental agencies and private organizations will participate, and the conference will endeavor to promote cooperation between governments and private citizens in the study of the problems presented.

The conference will consider broadly the problems of research in agriculture and forest development and methods of preventing and eradicating diseases and pests affecting plants and animals. Sponsors of the conference also anticipate that in discussing agricultural economics the members will explore the problems of competition which are now beginning to bear heavily on the nations in the tropical and subtropical regions of this hemisphere. Tropical countries of other continents now offer growing competition in production of such products as rubber, coffee, sugar, cacao, cotton and other vegetable fibers, tobacco and citrus fruits. In many of these products the new world formerly enjoyed practical freedom from competition.

The conference will also consider plans looking toward a coordination of research work by groups of the American nations acting in harmony to improve and develop the crops in which they have common interests. It will study the latest scientific methods both for the growing and for the marketing of agricultural products.

Reports dealing with the various questions on the agenda have been prepared by experts and are now being sent to the national committee in the different countries and to the private associations which are being invited to attend. This will promote advance study in preparation for the discussions at the conference itself, which will be chiefly round-table gatherings.

THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

For the first time in many years the American Physical Society will hold a summer meeting. This meeting, which will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., from June 19 to 21, will be in the nature of a "vacation" meeting. Plans have been made to schedule the formal scientific program chiefly