OBITUARY

RECENT DEATHS

DR. H. KARL WILLIAM KUMM, African explorer and geographer and former managing director of the Board for Medical Education and Research in Africa, died in California on August 23 at the age of fifty-six years.

MR. WASHINGTON B. LEWIS, assistant director of the National Park Service and formerly superintendent of Yosemite National Park, died recently in California at the age of forty-six years.

PROFESSOR CONRAD E. LINDBERG, since 1920 dean of Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, died on August 2.

DR. E. ALBERTA READ, assistant chief of the microanalytical laboratory of the bureau of chemistry, Department of Agriculture, died on September 1.

THE death by suicide is announced of Dr. Emory G. Alexander, Philadelphia surgeon, assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and a major in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

DR. JOHN ELDER MACILWAINE, formerly professor of materia medica and therapeutics at Queen's University, has died at the age of fifty-six years.

AFTER a short illness, Geheimrat Prof. Dr. Theodor Axenfeld, director of the university eye clinic in Freiburg im Breisgau, and for many years editor of the *Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde*, died on July 29 at the age of 63.

MEMORIALS

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that on July 13 a tablet in memory of Sir William Osler was unveiled at Ewelme Church by the Bishop of Oxford. As Regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford, Osler was Master of the Ewelme Almshouse, and whenever he could find time he loved to visit this secluded and picturesque spot. He had its mouldy old records cleaned, bound and preserved in a fireproof safe in the muniment room. The tablet commemorates also Lady Osler and their son Revere.

A MEMORIAL to Drs. B. N. Peach and John Horne was unveiled at Inchnadamph, in the wilds of the northwestern highlands of Scotland, by Sir John Flett on July 25. Mr. H. M. Cadell, of Grange, presided over the company, which included many well-known Scottish scientific workers. In dedicating the memorial, Sir John Flett described its site as properly selected in the center of a remarkable area to which the discoveries and interpretations of Peach and Horne had given world-wide fame, a temple of geology to which geologists from all parts of the earth made pilgrimage. He paid a warm tribute to the work of his friends, to their spirit of cooperation and goodwill, and to the single-mindedness of their scientific endeavors. The memorial, a massive pillar of stone set on a height overlooking Loch Assynt, carries a bronze tablet with the inscription: "To Ben N. Peach and John Horne, who played the foremost part in unravelling the geological structure of the North-West Highlands, 1883–1897: An international tribute. Erected 1930."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BEIT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS

SIR JAMES K. FOWLER, trustee and honorary secretary of the Beit memorial fellowships for medical research, has issued his annual report in which he reviews the work of the foundation since its establishment in December, 1909.

Sir Otto Beit's gift of £230,000 was of a magnitude that had no precedent in English medicine and the annual income derived therefrom has ever since been applied to the endowment of men and women, and none of it has been spent upon the erection of buildings. In its first year the trust created ten new fellowships, and within three years there were thirty fellows engaged in medical research, the openings to which were thus increased almost threefold.

In the earlier years the value of a fellowship was £250 per annum, and the tenure three years, with a possible extension to a fourth year in cases where marked distinction had been shown. In 1922, to meet the objection that three, or possibly four, years was too short a time to enable a man to give such evidence of capacity for research as would be likely to attract attention and thus to open up a prospect of a career, the fellowships were reorganized providing for seven years of continuous research.

The values of the fellowships were then fixed at junior fellows, £350 per annum; fourth year, £400, and senior, £500. In 1927 the stipends were again revised and increased to £400, £500 and £700, respectively; at these values they have since remained.

In 1927 a senior fellowship, value £1,000 per annum for five years for research in tropical medicine, was created. To this Dr. Edward Hindle was appointed. This research has already afforded an answer to several questions of great practical importance in connection with yellow fever. It has been shown that:

(1) A vaccine prepared from the organs of monkeys of a certain species infected with the virus of yellow fever will give protection to other animals of the same species.

(2) That animals thus protected can withstand a dose of the virus a million times as great as that which is fatal to the unprotected.

(3) That, although this vaccine prepared from monkeys is protective to monkeys, it has not yet proved possible by similar methods to immunize human beings.

(4) That Europeans may suffer from a mild disease not clinically recognizable as yellow fever, and that subsequent examination of their blood may prove that all the accepted tests of immunity are present.

In view of the dangers of this work, the trustees have decided not to continue the research under present conditions.

Excluding those whose appointments are of too recent date to justify their inclusion, and taking the year 1925 as a convenient limit, it appears that the total number of fellows elected up to then was one hundred and one, of whom seventy-nine were men and twenty-two women; of the men seven died at a relatively early age, but none of the women.

Considering first the careers of the seventy-two men, it appears that four have received the F.R.S., the greatest distinction in science, and sixteen have been appointed to university professorships, a high proportion considering that the group includes many who are still young. Most of the remainder occupy whole-time posts for teaching, research or scientific work and have steadily continued the career upon which many entered when first elected to a Beit fellowship.

Of the total of fifty-two who held medical qualifications when appointed, thirteen have passed into medical practice, consulting or otherwise, but the majority of these are continuing scientific work and are thus influencing the character of the art in which they are now engaged.

Of the twenty-two women a few have married, but all continued for many years the work of research and many are still thus engaged. That they hold, or have held, such positions as members of the scientific staff of the Lister Institute, university lectureships in biochemistry; pathologist and bacteriologist to general hospitals and boards of health; head of a department in an institute for medical research; principal of a horticultural college; physicians to children's hospitals, and holders of Rockefeller medical fellowships is noteworthy.

Thomas Lewis and Edward Mellanby are especially mentioned as being appointed at the first election in 1909. During the last fifteen years England has made no more conspicuous contributions to the knowledge that guides practical medicine than those which lie in the analysis of disorders of the heart by Sir Thomas Lewis, and in the experimental proof that rickets is due to vitamin deficiency by Professor Edward Mellanby.

THE MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE Museum of the City of New York, which will open some time this fall in the buildings now being erected at Fifth Avenue and 103d and 104th Streets, has received a gift of $50,000 for the installation of a gallery illustrating the development of communication in greater New York, as announced by Hardinge Scholle, director of the museum, in *The New York Times*.

The donation, which is part of the original budget for the building fund of $1,600,000, was contributed jointly by the leading national communication systems. The companies which made the new establishment possible are the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and its subsidiaries, the New York Telephone Company, the Western Electric Company, Inc., and the Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.; the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, and its subsidiaries, the Postal Telegraph Company and the Commercial Cable Company; the National Broadcasting Company, and the Radio Corporation of America.

The gallery will be used to demonstrate the development of intelligence communication, from a historical point of view, and only in so far as the use of new methods and inventions have affected the city's progress. There will be ten exhibition groups, designed by artists for miniature illustrations of the various stages of development and between the exhibition groups there will be exhibit cases, supplementing the scenes portrayed with prints, photographs and specimens of the instruments and models used in each stage of mechanical evolution.

Plans formulated by the officials of the museum, which are as yet somewhat tentative, provide for sets depicting the following scenes:

(1) Primitive communication: Early eighteenth century scene before a Dutch tavern, with the town crier ringing a bell in the village square.

(2) Harbor semaphore, about 1770: Scene on Fort Wadsworth Hill, S. I., showing semaphore attached to a