

eral leading scientific societies and was widely known among scientists and educators.

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### RECENT DEATHS

ERNEST HENRY WILSON, keeper of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and Mrs. Wilson were killed in a motor accident in Worcester on October 1. Dr. Wilson was fifty-four years old. He had been connected with the arboretum since 1906.

EDWARD FOSTER, state entomologist for Louisiana, died on October 8.

HENRY MARTYN MACKAY, dean of the faculty of applied science and professor of civil engineering at McGill University, died on October 25 in his sixty-third year. He had been associated with the university for twenty-six years and had been head of the faculty of applied science since 1924.

PAUL E. APPELL, professor of mathematics at the University of Paris, member of the Institute of France, died at Paris on October 24. He was seventy-five years old.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS, K.C.M.G., first principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad, died on September 26, aged seventy years.

LORD BROTHERTON, first baron of Wakefield, has died at the age of seventy-four years. He was the founder of extensive chemical manufacturing plants throughout England and Scotland. In June of this year he was awarded the Messel Medal by the Society of Chemical Industry for his services to the industry.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

ACCORDING to the London *Times* the Royal Geographical Society celebrated its centenary on October 21 and 22. Since the society was founded 100 years ago under the patronage of King William IV its work has been followed with interest by successive Sovereigns and members of the Royal Family. The Duke of York, representing the King, who is patron of the society, inaugurated the centenary celebrations, and the Prince of Wales, vice-patron of the society, presided at the centenary dinner. The occasion was noteworthy as marking the use, for the first time, of the lecture theater and library, which have been added to the society's house. There were present at the various ceremonies in connection with the centenary representatives of the principal geographical societies

### MEMORIALS

THE Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society has announced the establishment of a gold medal to commemorate the fundamental contributions made to chemistry by the late Theodore William Richards, who at the time of his death was Erving professor of chemistry at Harvard University and director of the Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory. The medal, which will be awarded at intervals of two or three years for achievements in chemistry, is being designed by Cyrus E. Dallin, a sculptor who was an intimate friend of Professor Richards. An opportunity is offered the friends of Professor Richards to assist in securing the sum of \$10,000 which is required to cover the initial expenses and provide a trust fund yielding sufficient income for the successive medals and incidental expenses.

CONTRIBUTIONS are invited to the Joseph W. Richards fund by the American Electro-chemical Society. The fund was inaugurated by the board of directors, in order that an independent income might be available to be used towards the payment of expenses of invited speakers from Europe or elsewhere. The plan of the fund embodies the wish that the late Professor Richards so often expressed during the many years of his untiring service as secretary of the society. Contributions should be sent to the secretary, Dr. Colin G. Fink, Columbia University, New York City.

THE new observatory on the Rechenberg, near Nuremberg, Germany, has been completed in time for the celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the death of Johannes Kepler. In connection with this event there will be an exhibition of objects connected with his life and work.

throughout the world and delegates from many other scientific institutions.

On the afternoon of October 21, the Duke of York, representing the King, received fellows of the society and delegates from other bodies in the new hall which seats 850 people. The delegates of the Société de Géographie of Paris and of the Gesellschaft für Erdkunde of Berlin—societies which have already celebrated their centenaries—read addresses. The new buildings of the society were then declared open. On Tuesday evening the society held its centenary meeting in the new hall, when Sir Charles Close, the president, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Sir Francis Younghusband and the Marquess of Zetland, past presidents, and Dr. H. R. Mill, vice-president, spoke on the history of the society.

On October 22 a series of short papers on "The