

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

Habitable Globe" was read at a morning meeting by eminent British and foreign geographers. In the evening the president, council and fellows of the society entertained the delegates and official guests at a reception in the society's house. A further series of papers on "The Habitable Globe" was read on the morning of October 23, and in the afternoon papers on "Incidents in the History of Exploration" were read by Lord Lugard, Sir Francis Younghusband, Sir Halford Mackinder, Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Bailey, Mr. J. M. Wordie and other British explorers. The centenary dinner of the society was held in the evening at the Connaught Rooms, when the Prince of Wales presided.

The following is a list of foreign geographical societies, in the order of their foundation, which were represented at the centenary celebrations:

Société de Géographie, Paris (1821); Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Berlin (1828); Verein für Geographie und Statistik, Frankfurt (1836); Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro, Rio de Janeiro (1838); Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística, Mexico City (1839); Gosudarstvennoe Russkoe Geograficheskoe Obshchestvo, Leningrad (1845); American Geographical Society, New York City (1852); Geographische Gesellschaft, Vienna (1856); Société de Géographie, Geneva (1858); Reale Società Geografica Italiana, Rome (1867); Geographische Gesellschaft, Munich (1869); Magyar Földrajzi Társaság, Budapest (1872); Sociedade de Geografia, Lisbon (1873); Geographische Gesellschaft, Berne (1873); Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap, Amsterdam (1873); Société de Géographie Commerciale, Paris (1873); Geographische Gesellschaft, Hamburg (1873); Societatea Regală Română de Geografie, Bucharest (1875); Real Sociedad Geográfica, Madrid (1876); Société Royale Belge de Géographie, Antwerp (1876); Svenska Sällskapet för Geografiske Selskab, Copenhagen (1876); Société Royale de Géographie, Antwerp (1876); Svenska Sällskapet för Antropologi och Geografi, Stockholm (1877); National Geographic Society, Washington (1888); Sociedad Geográfica, Lima (1888); Norske Geografiske Selskab, Oslo (1889); Sociedad Geográfica, La Paz (1889); Chicago Geographical Society (1894); Association of American Geographers, Nashville (1904); Geografsko Društvo, Belgrade (1910); Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía, Santiago (1911); Polskie Towarzystwo Geograficzne, Warsaw (1917); Association de Géographes Français, Paris (1920); Instituto Coloniale Fascista, Rome (1927), and the Chinese Geographical Society.

### THE LANGUAGES OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE Twenty-fourth International Americanist Congress which met at Hamburg from September 7 to 13 passed the following resolution:

The rapid settlement of America and the progress of assimilation of the natives, as well as the decrease of the population of many tribes bring it about that the lan-

guages of the American Indians are rapidly disappearing. On account of their great divergence in structure the Indian languages form one of the most important objects of study for the science of language. Our generation is the last one that is able to collect this material and it is our duty to study the native languages energetically and to preserve these valuable treasures for future times.

Three years ago the Carnegie Corporation, at the instance of the Council of Learned Societies, appropriated funds mainly for the study of North American languages. In some parts of Mexico, Central America and South America the investigations are even more urgently needed than in North America. Notwithstanding the efforts of missionaries many languages are entirely unknown. Of others we have only vocabularies, inadequate grammatical sketches and religious treatises. Modern researches must be based on collections of texts dictated by native speakers, not on translations.

In consideration of these facts the Twenty-fourth International Congress of Americanists meeting at Hamburg has passed the following resolution which is to be transmitted to the Council of Learned Societies:

The Twenty-fourth International Congress of Americanists meeting at Hamburg considers the thorough study of the vanishing native languages of North America, Mexico, Central America and South America one of the most urgent demands of science. The congress expresses its gratitude to the Council of Learned Societies for its active support of these researches and urgently recommends to the council the continuation of its efforts and hopes that it will see to it that the study be extended over the whole continent of America.

Furthermore the congress has passed the following resolution to be transmitted to the Carnegie Corporation: The Twenty-fourth International Congress of Americanists expresses its gratitude to the Carnegie Corporation for their liberal support of inquiries intended to save the vanishing native languages of America. The congress expresses the hope that the undertaking begun with the support of the Carnegie Corporation may lead to a thorough investigation of the languages of the whole American continent.

The congress instructs the delegates of the American governments and institutions to communicate these resolutions to the governments and organizations represented by them.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION BY RADIO

THE Advisory Committee on Education by Radio, which was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, has presented a report signed by William J. Cooper, commissioner of education. The recommendations as contained in the report follow:

1. That there be established in the Office of Education, Department of the Interior, a section devoted to education by radio, and charged with such responsibilities as