through the Secretary of the Navy, in the name of the United States Naval Observatory, a bronze bust of the late Lieutenant Gilliss, whose memory is honored by officials of Chile.

According to information sent from the Navy Department, Lieutenant Gilliss was the first to conduct a working observatory in the United States and to give his whole time to practical astronomical work. He published the first volume of observations and prepared the first catalogue of stars and planets compiled in the United States.

Lieutenant Gilliss was born in Georgetown, District of Columbia, September 6, 1811. He entered the United States Navy as a midshipman at the age of fifteen and served on the U. S. S. *Delaware,* ship-of-the-line, the *Concord* and the *Java* until 1831, when he was promoted to the rank of passed midshipman. He spent a year at the University of Virginia and later studied in Paris. In 1837, he succeeded Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, who was organizing his expedition to the Antarctic, in charge of the Depot of Charts and Instruments then located in Washington, D. C., on a site about 1,000 feet north of the Capitol.

In 1842, a bill was passed by Congress authorizing the establishment of an astronomical observatory and Gilliss prepared the plans for the building and arranged for the instruments. The site of the new building, the Naval Observatory, was on Braddock Hill, where the Washington, D. C., Naval Hospital is now located, 23d and 25th Streets between E Street and Potomac Park, N. W.

Gilliss's connection with astronomical observations, covering the period from 1838 to 1842, brought him in contact with Dr. Gerling, of Marburg University. Dr. Gerling proposed a new method of deducting the solar parallax from observations of Venus taken from points as far apart as possible in opposite hemispheres, but nearly on the same meridian.

These requisite physical conditions suggested to Gilliss that the obvious place for the other observatory was in Chile. His efforts finally brought authorization for funds from Congress, the project awakening world-wide interest, and he was assisted in his plans and assembling of equipment by some of the most prominent scientists of the day.

Upon the completion of the new observatory in Washington, Gilliss was assigned to duty on the Coast Survey in reducing for its use the entire series of moon-culminations previously observed and published by him. From November, 1848, to 1852, he was engaged in making observations for the determination of the solar parallax.

In August of 1849 he sailed for Valparaiso at the head of a scientific expedition. He located at Santiago, Chile, where he found atmospheric conditions, the necessary physical comforts and availability of repair facilities ideal. The Chilean Government rendered every assistance to Lieutenant Gilliss. There he completed a series of observations of great value. He likewise accumulated a vast amount of information concerning earthquakes and other subjects.

When Gillliss's work was finished, the interest he had awakened in astronomy did not flag. Chileans desired to found a National Observatory. The observatory which Gilliss had established was turned over to Chile as the Chilean National, hence the Chileans' affectionate reference to Gilliss as "the father of astronomy in Chile."

He visited Peru in 1858 to observe the total eclipse of the sun and in 1860 observed a total eclipse of the sun in the Washington Territory. In 1861, he was assigned to take charge of the Washington Naval Observatory. He died in Washington, D. C., in February, 1865.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ELLWOOD HENDRICK, curator of the Chandler Chemical Museum of Columbia University and author of many books popularizing chemistry, died on October 30, at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. HORACE E. STOCKBRIDGE, formerly director of the Indiana Experiment Station and from 1890 to 1894 president of the North Dakota Agricultural College, died on October 30, aged seventy-three years.

DR. PRESTON M. HICKEY, head of the department of roentgenology of the University of Michigan, died on October 30. He was sixty-four years old.

THE death at the age of eighty years is announced of George McLane Wood, for twenty-five years editor of the United States Geological Survey in Washington. He had served with the survey from 1886 to 1925.

ACCORDING to a press dispatch Max von Pidoll and his wife committed suicide simultaneously, but in different localities, on October 29. Dr. von Pidoll, who had recently been appointed professor of mathematics in the University of Innsbruck, had suffered from a chronic illness. He was forty-three years old.

Nature reports the death of Dr. D. Adamson, past president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, on October 11, aged sixty-one years; of Dr. H. R. H. Hall, keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum, on October 13, aged fifty-seven years; of Professor Paul Wagner, director of the Agricultural Research Station at Darmstadt from

1872 until 1923, on August 26, aged eighty-seven years, and of Dr. C. Powell White, for some years director of the Helen Swindells Cancer Research Laboratory at the University of Manchester, pathologist at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, and a member of the executive committee of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, on September 26, aged sixty-three years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S GRANTS FOR RESEARCH

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science grants each year a number of awards to aid in research. The next allotment of these grants will occur during December, 1930. Applications should be addressed to Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C., and should be in his hands not later than December 1.

There will be available for the next year a total of about $3,000. The amount of the individual grants is usually for sums of from $50 to $500. The grants are designed to assist research projects in which some financial assistance will make possible the carrying on of investigations that would otherwise be handicapped. They may be used, for example, for purchasing special apparatus or special facilities that are otherwise unavailable. Application blanks for these grants may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, although it is not necessary that such special application blanks be used. It is, however, important that any application be supported by letters from qualified scientific men who are acquainted with the proposed research.

These applications are considered by a committee on grants for research, which consists of the following members:

Walter S. Adams, astronomy.
Charles P. Berkey, geology.
Arthur H. Compton, physics.
Karl F. Kellerman, botany.
W. Lash Miller, chemistry.
George H. Parker, zoology.
Oswald Veblen, mathematics.
William C. White, medicine.

Announcement regarding the awards of the grants will be made in January, and the funds can then be secured on demand. When a grant is awarded, it is expected that its recipient make a report within a year as to the progress of the research for which the grant is intended. A report of some kind should be submitted also when the studies are brought to a conclusion. Such a report should give detailed references to any publication that has been made on the grant project, and if reprints or copies of these publications are available they should be included. It is expected, also, that suitable acknowledgment be made for the financial aid given from such a grant when the results of the studies are published. This acknowledgment might take such a form as "Financial aid for the work here reproduced was received from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the form of a grant for the year 1931."

ARTHUR H. COMPTON, *Chairman,*
Committee on Grants for Research

HEALTH SURVEYS BY THE YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CONSTANTLY increasing interest in public health is being evidenced by Connecticut communities, according to a statement made by Dr. Ira V. Hiscock, professor of public health in the Yale School of Medicine. At the present time the department is conducting surveys in four cities and towns, Winsted, Stratford, West Hartford and Haddam. In each instance the study is being made at the request of the community and with the approval of the local health officer and of the state department of health.

Similar surveys, or "public health inventories" have already been made in Greenwich, North Haven, Westport, Middletown, Hartford, Ansonia, New Haven, Hamden, Manchester and Danbury. The printed report of the Danbury survey has just come off the press.

By the terms of the endowment the department of public health at the Yale School of Medicine is charged with the obligation to promote the general cause of public health in the state of Connecticut. Its expert services are therefore placed at the disposal of any community desiring to take stock of conditions pertaining to the health of its members and to inaugurate such measures as may be needed to improve them. Although these services are given without charge, the department makes certain requirements in order to be sure that its efforts will bear fruit. The community must guarantee the full cooperation of all its agencies; a permanent committee must be formed to assist in an advisory capacity in making the survey and to see that the recommendations resulting from the study are carried into effect in so far as possible. The community must also pay the