

ship of many new species that he discovered. He published also numerous entertaining and scientifically valuable papers upon plant geography, especially that of Hispaniola, and he wrote an admirable monograph of the tropical American *Vernoniaeae*. Botanical science will be vastly poorer for loss of other contributions that it hoped to receive from his pen.

It is a strange coincidence that Urban and Ekman, the two men who have contributed most to knowledge of the Antillean flora, should have ended their labor only a week apart. Ekman's life work was one which all botanists may envy, but very few may equal. He was a brilliant member of that long line of Swedish botanists who have made such eminent contributions to natural science.

PAUL C. STANDLEY

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

RECENT DEATHS

DR. PIERRE A. FISH, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University since 1929, when

he succeeded the late Dr. Veranus A. Moore, died on February 19. He was sixty-six years old on February 17.

DR. JOHN CONRAD HEMMETER, from 1903 to 1922 professor of physiology and clinical medicine at the University of Maryland, died on February 25 at the age of sixty-seven years.

PHILIP P. QUAYLE, physicist for the Phillips Cart-ridge Company, and formerly a member of the staff of the Bureau of Standards, died suddenly at Lebanon, Ohio, on February 21. Mr. Quayle was a recognized authority on ballistics and had written the article on Spark Photography for the new edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."

THE REVEREND CHARLES DOUGLAS PERCY DAVIES, of Kemerton Grange, Tewkesbury, president of the British Astronomical Association from 1924 to 1926, died on February 5.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INSTITUTION FOR SURGICAL BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT DOWNE

THE London *Times* states that the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons has accepted an offer from Mr. George Buckston Browne, F.R.C.S., to build and endow an Institution of Surgical Biological Research upon a 13-acre estate at Downe, Kent, which he proposes to present to the college for this purpose. At a council meeting on February 12 it was resolved that the council expressing its deep sense of Mr. Buckston Browne's great liberality, should undertake on behalf of the college to be responsible for the proposed institution, subject to an approved settlement under a deed of trust.

The estate concerned lies 16 miles from Charing Cross, adjoining the western side of Darwin's old home, "Down House," which was presented, with its 23 acres of ground, to the British Association two years ago by the same benefactor. Mr. Buckston Browne has announced his willingness to endow the new estate with an initial sum of £50,000, and to add further gifts or legacies until his total benefaction to the research institution (including the cost of the land) reaches the amount of £100,000.

In his letter to Lord Moynihan, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the members of the council, Mr. Buckston Browne states his belief that those who have added or are adding to the science and art of surgery are the greatest of all benefactors of the human race and the domesticated animal kingdom. He expresses, therefore, a wish to form an institution

in which surgeons, and particularly young surgeons, will have full opportunity for carrying out their investigations.

The ultimate size and design of the building to be erected, and the form of equipment, service and staff are not laid down by Mr. Buckston Browne, but for the needs of the present laboratory workers, and of those surgeons who are now seeking an opportunity for testing inferences drawn from the clinical observation of certain diseases, he proposes the following initial provisions:

- (1) Three or four laboratories where investigations can be made under the best conditions, or where living animals can be closely observed and cared for.
- (2) Houses for animals.
- (3) Accommodation for a chief attendant, skilled in laboratory methods.
- (4) Accommodation for a stockman, who will look after and feed the animals.
- (5) Hotel accommodation for those who may wish to carry on continuous work in the institution.

OBSERVATIONS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF LONGITUDES

A PUBLICATION has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey concerning observations for the determination of longitudes made simultaneously in 1926 by some 30 countries. The author, Clarence H. Swick, chief of the Section of Gravity and Astronomy, gives information about a world-wide longitude net of 40 basic stations determined in 1926.