had filled the chair of astronomy and meteorology of the faculty of sciences of the University of Geneva.

For many years Professor Gautier was a member of the permanent commission of the old International Geodetic Association, attended several of its triennial assemblies and took a prominent part in its affairs. When the world war began and little support was given to the association by its adhering members, Professor Gautier was largely instrumental in forming what was termed the "Association Géodesique reduite entre Etats Neutres" and served as its president for several years. It was mainly due to his foresight and scientific efforts that anything at all was accomplished in geodesy, in an international sense. Through his efforts the results obtained at the variation of latitude stations at Ukiah, California, Mizusawa, Japan, and Carloforte, Italy, were computed and made available for the use of astronomers. After the war, when the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union was created, he transferred to the section of geodesy (name changed in 1930 to International Geodetic Association) of that union the functions and property rights of the old association and of the reduced association which had functioned during the war. He later became vice-president of the section (association).

In addition to his other duties, Professor Gautier was for many years president of the Swiss Geodetic Commission. He was a powerful influence for several decades among geodesists of the world and they, as well as the astronomers, mourn his death. His keen intellect and scientific attainments aroused the admiration of all those who knew him, either personally or through correspondence, and his charming personality endeared him to his many friends.

His health had not been good for the last few years, especially since the death of Mme. Gautier on January 4, 1927. After his retirement, on December 31, 1927, he was not actively engaged on astronomical or geodetic work, but he maintained until the very last his strong interest in those matters, especially such as were of an international character. He made several trips to the south of France in search of health, but most of his time was spent in Geneva. Two sons and two daughters survive him: Colonel Paul Gautier, of Bogota, Colombia; M. Max Gautier, Mme. William E. Rappard and Mme. Marcel DuPasquier, of Geneva.

WILLIAM BOWIE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WHITMAN HOWARD JORDAN

THE death of Dr. W. H. Jordan, director of the State Experiment Station at Geneva from 1896 to 1921, occurred at his home in Orono, Maine, on May 8, following a prolonged period of ill health. Born in Raymond, Maine, on October 27, 1851, Dr. Jordan received his early training at the University of Maine, graduating from that institution in 1875.

In 1878 he entered the employ of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station as an assistant chemist, and from that date on his professional career and personal interests to the time of his death were intimately associated with experiment station work. He returned to Maine in 1879 to serve for one year as an instructor in chemistry, and then went to the Pennsylvania State College as professor of agricultural chemistry in the college and as agricultural chemist in the experiment station. While at State College he laid out a series of soil plats for experimental purposes, the fiftieth anniversary of which is to be celebrated in June, when Dr. Jordan was to have been the guest of honor.

In 1885 he was called back to Maine to become director of the Experiment Station at Orono, where he served for eleven years. In 1896 he entered upon his work at Geneva as director of the New York State Experiment Station where he was to serve for twenty-five years and to attain an international reputation as an investigator and administrator.

Dr. Jordan was the author of books on human and animal nutrition and of numerous experiment station publications and special articles. He was also an effective speaker, and while director of the Geneva Station was frequently called upon by farm organizations and others to address them on the work of the station and on other topics. His conception of the function of the experiment station as a research institution and his insistence that the station be allowed to perform its work unhampered has undoubtedly had a profound influence on the contributions that the station has made to the agriculture of the state.

A. A. HIMWICH

ON April 18th occurred the death, in New York City, of A. A. Himwich, M.D., at the age of sixty-nine years. Dr. Himwich was one of the most beloved of the Russian intelligentsia, coming here among the first of the great immigration of 1881.

Dr. Himwich was a physician of recognized ability and continued his medical work at Berlin with Professors Klemperer and Kraus. At New York University he received the B.S. degree in 1886; M.D. in 1887 and M.S. in 1891. There Dr. Himwich was a beloved student of Chancellor McCracken, Professor Stevenson and Professor Herring. Post-graduate work was continued at Columbia under Professors Woodward and Pupin and at the Johns Hopkins under Professors Mall, Osler and Martin.

Dr. Himwich was deeply interested in the later developments of mathematics and physics and particularly in relativity. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and

a member of many scientific organizations, including the American Mathematical Society and the American Medical Association. For thirty years he was a visiting physician of the Beth Israel Hospital, of which he was one of the founders; and also a founder, and later the director, of the Educational League where college courses were given to men and women. Dr. Himwich was known by men in many fields and was active in progressive movements.

Important work was done by him unostentatiously, quietly and modestly. He was an idealist and well-loved, shedding light in his path. He was unobtrusively learned and continually busy with his studies and researches. Though always surrounded by books, he never shut himself from life and was ever ready to take part in useful social endeavors. His wife and two sons survive him: Dr. Rose I. Himwich, Dr. Harold E. Himwich, associate professor of physiology at Yale University, and Mr. Alfred W. Himwich, a teacher in the New York Public Schools. M. D.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ALDRED SCOTT WARTHIN, since 1903 professor of pathology and director of the Pathological Laboratory at the University of Michigan, died suddenly on May 23, at the age of sixty-five years.

EDWARD DEAN ADAMS, in large measure responsible for the electrical installations at Niagara Falls and other engineering projects, active in engineering and scientific organizations, died on May 23, at the age of eighty-five years.

PROFESSOR A. ZIMMERMAN, for the past nine years instructor in the department of chemistry of the University of Kentucky, died on May 21, at the age of thirty-five years.

PROFESSOR ALFRED WEGENER, the German meteorological explorer, chief of the German Scientific Expedition exploring central Greenland, has been found frozen to death. Dr. Wegener was fifty years of age.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BITUMINOUS COAL

AN impressive group of scientists from Europe will take part in the Third International Conference on Bituminous Coal which will be held at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from November 16 to 21. Germany, England and France will send the largest delegations.

New developments in fuel technology and utilization will be explained and discussed by the foremost authorities. Those interested in coal research may hear such German authorities as Dr. Friedrich Bergius, of Heidelberg, whose process for the hydrogenation of coal has been purchased by the I. G. Farbenindustrie; Professor Franz Fischer, of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for coal research, whose process for forming liquid hydrocarbons from gases has been widely discussed, and Professor Ernst Berl, of Darmstadt.

Among the English members, contributions will be made by Professor William A. Bone, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Dr. Cecil Lander, director of the Fuel Research Board, London, who has done much work on low temperature carbonization and the utilization of coal generally, and Dr. R. Lessing, consulting chemist, also of London.

France will be represented by a distinguished group. Among them will be Professors Mailhe and Camille Matignon, of the Sorbonne, Paris; M. André Kling, director of the Municipal Laboratory of Paris, who is known for his work in producing motor spirits from coal by hydrogenation. Other European nations will send their foremost scientists to the Pittsburgh congress.

The tentative program outlined by the conference committee places emphasis on the economic side of the coal industry. A discussion of the competition between coal, petroleum and natural gas will have an important place in the program. Recent large scale hydroelectric developments will come in for discussion when water power is compared with steam produced with coal as a source of energy. The future of coal as the source of power for locomotives and steamships will be forecast by scientific authorities in these fields. A report of the cost of transporting energy in various forms promises to bring forth a discussion on pipe lines for natural gas and petroleum, the coal car and superpower transmission.

Reports on the actual status of low temperature carbonization throughout the world have been planned for the third meeting. Other subjects that are sure to find a place on the program are the origin of coal, problems of combustion, gasification and liquefaction of coal, smoke elimination and preparation of coal for the market.

In preparing for the third international meeting, Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology and organizer of the congresses, spent several months in Europe, reviewing the coal situation. Invitations were extended at that time by Dr. Baker to a group of fuel technologists in addition to those named above, and a large attendance is assured.