

Scientists when great are usually modest. Sir Isaac Newton was buried in Westminster Abbey with royal honors. Of himself he has said, "I have been but as a child playing on the seashore; now finding some pebble rather more polished and now some shell more agreeably variegated than another, while the immense ocean of truth extended itself unexplained before me." And so it was with Maury. He did not lay claims to great discoveries. "I only bring together," he wrote, "the observations that others have made, and then leave it to the observations themselves to discover their own meaning in their own way."

His life should be an inspiration to every youth of to-day, showing as it does so clearly that hard work, with enthusiasm and imagination, will overcome nearly all difficulties.

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MEMORIALS

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that ceremonies in memory of Fernand Vidal were recently held in Paris. Professor Pasteur Val-léry-Radot (grandson of Pasteur), who was a pupil of Fernand Vidal and who is now an associate professor at the Medical School, delivered an address on the work of his former teacher. He described his methods of work and experimentation and recalled the discoveries for which science is indebted to him.

Nature states that at a special meeting of the council of the Ray Society on April 30, the following resolution was adopted: "The Council of the Ray Society desire to place on record the profound grief felt by them on hearing of the death of their president, Professor W. C. M'Intosh, F.R.S., on April 1 last. Professor M'Intosh had belonged to the society since 1863 and had been president since 1913. He had not only shown his practical interest in its success by his exceptionally long period of membership, but he had given the most devoted service to the society by his frequent journeys from St. Andrews to London, in order to attend the meetings of the council, at which he nearly always presided. The council direct that this record of their appreciation of the

value of their late president's work be sent to Dr. R. T. Gunther, his nearest surviving relative, with the expression of their sincerest sympathy."

RECENT DEATHS

DR. SOLON IRVING BAILEY, professor emeritus of astronomy at Harvard University, from 1892 to 1919 in charge of the Arequipa branch of Harvard College Observatory, died on June 5, in his seventy-seventh year.

DR. FRANK WIGGLESWORTH CLARKE, chief chemist of the U. S. Geological Survey, *retired*, well known for his work on the constants, atomic weights, geochemistry and other subjects, died at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on May 23, in his eighty-fifth year.

DR. EDWARD HART, professor emeritus of chemistry at Lafayette College, died on June 6, at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. SAMUEL W. BEYER, dean of the industrial science division of Iowa State College, was fatally hurt when his automobile was struck by a passenger train on June 2. Dr. Beyer, who was sixty-six years of age, was known for his work in economic geology.

THE death is announced of Dr. Carroll Gideon Bull, professor of immunology in the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. BENSON AMBROSE COHOE, professor of therapeutics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School since 1920, died on May 27, at the age of fifty-six years.

WILLIAM DOBINSON HALLIBURTON, emeritus professor of physiology at King's College, London, died on May 21, at the age of seventy-one years.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH EDWARDS, principal and professor of mathematics and physics at Queen's College, London, died on May 30, in his seventy-eighth year.

MR. ST. GEORGE LITLEDAL, known for his explorations in central Asia, died on April 16, at the age of seventy-nine years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the rebuilding of a considerable part of the Royal Institution became imperative some two years ago, after a series of explosions in Albemarle Street, which compelled the attention of the managers to the dangerous con-

dition of the lecture theater. This historic room, the scene of the Friday evening discourses and experiments of Davy, of Faraday, and of a long line of distinguished scientific men over a period of one hundred and thirty years, had remained almost unchanged since it was completed under the supervision of the founder of the institution, Count Rumford, in 1802.

It was built entirely of timber, and by modern standards was very ill provided with exits. A survey made two years ago showed the fire risks to be so grave that they could no longer be ignored. Plans were prepared, and a scheme of reconstruction was undertaken. This has now been completed, and a housewarming party was held on the evening of May 6. The principal consideration in the rebuilding has been to satisfy modern standards of security by means of fireproof construction and by the provision of suitable exits; but the perfection of the design of the lecture theater for the scientific purpose for which it was built has been recognized the world over, and succeeding generations of members have held their meeting room in affectionate regard, so that it has been a particular care to effect the restoration with as little modification of its qualities and appearance as possible. Advantage has naturally been taken of the opportunity to bring the equipment up to date, and the theater has been provided with a cinematograph projector, an epidiascope, a great variety of services to the lecture table for experimental purposes, and a number of other refinements for the assistance of the lecturer and the convenience of his audience. The rebuilding of the lecture theater has involved the replanning and reconstruction of a large adjacent part of the building. On the ground floor the arrangements have been largely determined by the requirements for exit to the street from the theater above. A new entrance hall has been constructed, some of the rooms have been replanned, and a large new chemical laboratory has been built. During the evening Sir William Bragg, Fullerian professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory, demonstrated to the guests some of the classical experiments of the Royal Institution.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR STUDIES REGARDING POPULATION

ORGANIZED by the Italian committee for the study of population problems an *International Congress for Studies Regarding Population* will be held in Rome from September 7 to 10.

His Excellency the Head of the Government, Benito Mussolini, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the congress, while the effective chairmanship is entrusted to Professor Corrado Gini, president of the Italian committee.

The organization of the congress will include: (a) An honorary committee; (b) An International Committee of Patronage, composed of presidents and representatives of National Scientific Organizations for the study of population problems and other personalities who will be entrusted with the propaganda for the congress in their own countries and with the re-

lations between the organizing committee and those engaged in these studies in the respective associations; (c) An Organizing Committee, composed of Italian members who will be entrusted with the organization of the congress and will be responsible for the acceptance of communications.

The program of the congress is purely scientific, so that any political, moral or religious propaganda whatever is forbidden, even if questions concerning the problems of population are involved.

For the distribution of the scientific papers the congress will consist of the following sections: Biology and Eugenics, Anthropology and Geography, Hygiene and Medicine, Demography, Economy, Sociology, History, Methodology.

Each meeting will be presided over in turn by specialists belonging to different nationalities. The congress will be open to the public. All taking part in the congress will be entitled to send communications of which the final text should reach the organizing committee before July 1.

Some subjects of special importance, chosen by the organizing committee, will be the object of reports by persons previously nominated and will be submitted to discussion by the sections.

The fee entitling to take part in the congress and to receive a copy of the proceedings is fifty lire for all those invited, whether individually, or through national scientific committees or associations, and one hundred lire for others taking part in the congress.

All those who take an interest in the congress and would like to receive the detailed program are invited to apply to the "Comitato Italiano per lo Studio dei Problemi della Popolazione."—10, Via delle Terme di Diocleziano, Roma (Italia).

RANGE RESEARCH CONFERENCE AT EPHRAIM, UTAH

THE Ecological Society of America is sponsoring a meeting for the purpose of discussing range research with particular attention to methods. The program is being planned to give opportunity for field discussions and demonstrations as well as for more formal discussions. The committee in charge of arrangements consists of C. L. Forsling, *chairman*; H. C. Hanson, Walter P. Taylor and W. G. McGinnies, *secretary*.

The tentative program includes a discussion of the following topics:

1. Methods of studying plant populations and their changes.
2. Methods of studying forage production and yield, including clipping, height growth, volume determination or other methods; clip quadrats,