

in which Dr. Clarke took an active part, a compromise proposal of the New York Society was adopted. This was, that if the chemists of the country would accept the name and charter of the New York organization, that society would form a local section of a truly national society, the Washington society to take the same action. This national society has now become the largest chemical society in the world, with eighty sections and over 17,000 members. Dr. Clarke was elected to the presidency of the society in 1901.

The numerous articles from his pen upon a wide variety of subjects that appeared in divers journals and magazines furnish abundant evidence of the breadth of his interest and the scope of his knowledge and of his gift of felicitous and convincing expression. The high esteem in which he was held by scientists both in this and foreign countries is shown by the number of honorary degrees that were conferred upon him, and by his election to honorary membership or emeritus life membership in American, English and Russian scientific societies.

Dr. Clarke was one of the most kindly and lovable of men, simple in his tastes and of a modesty that is so generally a characteristic of the really great. His sense of humor and ready wit gave to his conversation a delightfully piquant flavor and it was a most entertaining experience, which the writer often had the privilege to enjoy, to listen to his reminiscences, sometimes keenly critical, sometimes highly amusing, but always sympathetically appreciative, of the noted men whom he had known and of their scientific work. His was a long life, a happy and useful life, a life of helpfulness to others and of high achievement.

L. M. DENNIS

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

### MEMORIALS

THE dedication of Fine Hall, Princeton University, will be held in the early fall at a time when it will be convenient for Miss Gwethalyn Jones, of Chicago, who, with her uncle, the late Thomas D. Jones, '76, of Chicago, gave the building to the university, to attend the exercises. The building, which was recently completed at a cost of \$500,000, was given in memory of Dean Henry Burchard Fine, '80, who organized and developed the present department of mathematics of the university. It will contain all classroom and research work in mathematics. It is the seventh scientific building on the campus.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Dr. Cornelius A. Harper, Madison, president of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, will dedicate a bronze tablet to the memory of Dr. William Beaumont on the site of Fort Crawford, near Prairie du Chien, on August 30. Speakers at the dedication ceremonies will be Dr. William Snow Miller, on "Beaumont the Man"; Dr. Walter J. Meek, "Beaumont the Physiologist," and Dr. Peter L. Scanlan, "Old Prairie du Chien." The site for the monument was presented to the medical society by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The inscription on the tablet is as follows: "William Beaumont, M.D., Pioneer in Physiology, born Lebanon, Conn., 1785; died St. Louis, Mo., 1853. At old Fort Crawford, one and one half miles northwest of this spot, one hundred years ago, Doctor Beaumont, a surgeon in the U. S. Army, performed those experiments on Alexis St. Martin which laid the foundation for our knowledge of digestion. In honor of his pioneer work this memorial has been erected by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, 1931."

### RECENT DEATHS

DR. ARISTIDES AGRAMONTE, professor of bacteriology and experimental pathology at the University of Havana and well known for his work on yellow fever, died on August 17, at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. WILLIAM H. HUNTER, chief of the division of organic chemistry in the school of chemistry at the University of Minnesota, died on August 19, aged forty-nine years.

DR. CHARLES H. SHATTUCK, vice-president of the Howard Pulp and Paper Company, and formerly professor of forestry at the University of California, died on August 13 at the age of sixty-four years.

MORGAN P. SWEENEY, for twenty-two years a member of the division of chemistry at the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva, died on August 6, following a brief illness.

DR. J. D. ROBERTSON, formerly commissioner of health and president of the board of education in Chicago, died on August 20, at the age of sixty years.

DR. ARCHIBALD BARR, chairman of the engineering firm of Barr and Strand, Ltd., and formerly Regius professor of civil engineering and mechanics at the University of Glasgow, died on August 6, at the age of seventy-six years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### DISSOLUTION OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY

ACCORDING to an article in the *London Times*, the dissolution of the Royal Botanic Society at the end

of this year was accepted as inevitable by a meeting of fellows held recently at the Royal Botanical Gardens. The lease of the gardens from the Crown does not expire until April, 1932, but the finances of the

society are attenuated and it is only by a reduction of the staff and the sale in the autumn of plants and other property that the remaining fellows may enjoy their facilities for a few months more and the society can meet its obligations in keeping with its honored traditions.

Mr. H. J. Greenwood, who presided at the meeting, said he was sorry that nothing had transpired since they last met of a hopeful character regarding the future of the gardens. Many of them, perhaps, had not been very sanguine that the decision would be materially changed. Efforts had been made by a large number of fellows, and more particularly by Colonel Moore, to keep in touch with the Minister of the Crown affected, but, in view of the grave situation in the world, members of the cabinet would not be able to give consideration to the matter of the gardens at the present time. Apart from that, he reminded the meeting that it was determined some years ago that the whole of the Crown leases in private hands were to be reviewed and treated in an economic way. When, in the early days of the consideration of the future of the gardens, the council made an offer of £2,000 for a further lease, if granted, they were advised that the sum likely to be required for this inner circle would probably be £3,000 to £5,000 a year. It was obvious that even in a mood of optimism efforts to meet such a rent would have been doomed to failure. In any case they had to face the definite statement that there would be no renewal of the lease.

The Duchess of Hamilton, who elicited the fact that the curator had the longest service of the officials of the society who were to go, paid a tribute to the work of Mr. North, and recalled that he began the cultivation of the soya bean, which might one day be of great help to agriculture.

The chairman, having intimated that it was proposed that a testimonial should be opened for the staff of the society, accepted a proposal that it should be done at once, and subscriptions were made during and at the close of the meeting. It was also stated that the government had asked for, and had been given, particulars of the age and length of service of the staff.

Colonel T. C. Moore, M.P., gave a short account of his efforts to secure the preservation of the gardens. While hopes had not actually materialized, he said, they were not without possibility of coming to fruition. With the support of the council he had approached the Pilgrim Trust for a contribution towards the upkeep of the society, and through Sir Ernest Graham-Little had tried to find out what the London University Senate might do. The Pilgrim Trust did not meet until the latter part of September, but full details had been collated for them. To Mr. Lansbury he had submitted alternative suggestions. One, that,

subject to the Pilgrim Trust and the university cooperating to maintain the integrity of the society, the lease should be renewed under new and more democratic conditions, had not much chance of acceptance. The other was to agree that the society should lapse and that the government should take over the gardens and administer them, offering facilities to subscribing fellows, but providing for the admission of the public, and with two free days. That was a scheme which he thought might appeal to Mr. Lansbury, and it had been promised full consideration.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT OF ENGINEERING GRADUATES

A FORTY per cent. increase in enrolment in the engineering schools of the country during the past five years narrows professional possibilities in some of the fields, as the saturation point approaches, according to a statement made to a representative of the *U. S. Daily* by Mr. W. C. John, specialist in professional education at the Federal Office of Education.

The total enrolment in 145 leading engineering schools reached 78,685 during 1930-1931, of whom 12,161 were undergraduate seniors and 2,939 students of graduate engineering.

The problem of the placement of graduates of engineering schools becomes more difficult as the number of students increases. Reports collected by Mr. F. L. Bishop, secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, indicate that but 38.2 per cent. of the graduates of 88 institutions have been placed this year. The report involved 5,866 graduates, of whom only 2,240 obtained positions.

The latest statistics on engineering education are now in process of compilation by the Office of Education and will soon be available for public distribution. These statistics will show a great increase in the number of students pursuing some phase of engineering. The four leading fields are electrical, mechanical, civil and chemical engineering, with mining and metallurgy ranking fifth in popularity.

Nearly 20,000 students were enrolled in electrical engineering courses alone in 1930-1931. Of these, 18,565 were undergraduates. More than 15,500 were pursuing mechanical engineering with over 15,000 enrolled as undergraduates.

Civil engineering ranked third in popularity with a total enrolment of over 14,500, of which 13,813 were undergraduates. Next in order was chemical engineering which mustered over 9,600. Of these, 9,154 were undergraduates. Mining and metallurgy were represented by nearly 3,000. Mr. Bishop's study on placement of students from the 88 institutions reporting indicates that 33.4 per cent. of the electrical engineering group were placed, 41 per cent. of the mechanical, 37.5 per cent. of the civil and 46.3 per