

## MEMORIALS

WE learn from the *New York Times* that in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the death of the great French astronomer and mathematician, Pierre Simon de Laplace, which occurred in 1927, a memorial monument will be erected in the town of Beaumont, France, where he was born. It will be of bronze on a granite pedestal. The statue will probably be exhibited in the next Paris Salon and dedicated some time during the summer of 1932.

*Nature* reports that on July 28 a memorial tablet to Thomas Earnshaw, the horologist, was unveiled outside the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Bloomsbury, by the Astronomer Royal, Sir Frank Dyson. The tablet has been erected by the Clockmakers' Company and the British Horological Institute. Like his predecessors, Graham and Harrison, and his contemporaries, Mudge and Arnold, Earnshaw came from the country, having been born at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, on February 4, 1749, but for many years he had a business at 119 High Holborn. To him is ascribed the merit of devising the chronometer escapement and compensation balance precisely as they are now used, while it was he and Arnold who first produced chronometers in large numbers and at moderate cost, thus rendering service of the utmost value to navigation and commerce. His improvements were recognized by the commissioners of longitude, and he was awarded £3,000 by the govern-

ment. His death took place in Chenies Street, Bedford Square, on March 1, 1829, and he was buried in St. Giles-in-the-Fields, where it was his custom to worship. He had published a pamphlet in 1806 entitled "Explanation of Timekeepers constructed by the Author and the late Mr. John Arnold," and another in 1808 stating his own claims to the invention of improvements in timekeepers.

## RECENT DEATHS

DR. C. L. BRISTOL, emeritus professor of biology at New York University, died on August 27 at the age of seventy-two years.

DR. JAMES T. PORTER, head of the department of physics at the University of Tennessee and assistant dean, died on August 27. Dr. Porter was fifty-seven years of age.

DR. WILLIAM PARKER BOOKE, professor emeritus of preventive dentistry and oral hygiene at Harvard University, died on August 25 at the age of seventy-two years.

DR. ARCHIE H. KIRKLAND, consulting economic entomologist, died on September 29, at the age of fifty-eight years.

DR. GEORGE G. BROWNELL, whose work has been the culture of citrus fruit in connection with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 28 at the age of sixty-two years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

FROM September 23 to 30 the Centenary meeting of the British Association meets in London for the first time in its history. The reception room of the Imperial Institute at the University of London will be open on Tuesday, September 22.

General Smuts will assume the presidency in succession to Professor F. O. Bower in the Albert Hall on Wednesday, September 23, and will receive the invited delegates of societies and institutions, and of universities, colleges and cities in which the association has held meetings in the past. On the evening of the same day General Smuts will deliver his presidential address, of which the subject is "The Scientific World Picture of To-day," in the Central Hall, Westminster. The address will be relayed to other halls and will be broadcast. The work of the sections of the association will begin on September 24 and will be continued until September 30.

The presidential addresses in the sections are to be spread over several days and include the following: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Science), Sir

J. J. Thomson on "The Growth in Opportunities for Education and Research in Physics in the Past Fifty Years"; Section B (Chemistry), Brigadier-General Sir Harold Hartley on "Michael Faraday and the Theory of Electrolytic Conduction"; Section C (Geology), Professor J. W. Gregory; Section D (Zoology), Professor E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., on "A Hundred Years of Evolution"; Section E (Geography), Sir Halford J. Mackinder on "The Human Habitat"; Section F (Economic Science and Statistics), Professor E. Cannan on "Internationalism in Economic Theory"; Section G (Engineering), Sir Alfred Ewing on "Power"; Section H (Anthropology), Professor A. R. Radcliffe-Brown; Section I (Physiology), Dr. H. H. Dale on "The Biological Nature of Filtrable Viruses"; Section J (Psychology), Dr. C. S. Myers on "The Nature of Mind"; Section K (Botany), Professor T. G. Hill on "The Advancement of Botany"; Section L (Educational Science), Sir Charles Grant Robertson on "Educational Theory, 1831 and 1931"; Section M (Agriculture), Sir John Russell on "The Changing Outlook in Agriculture."

Evening discourses are to be given by Professor W.