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 government. 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.

A. Bone on "The Photographic Analysis of Explosion Flames," Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell on "Zoos and National Parks," Sir Arthur Keith on "The Construction of Man's Family Tree," Sir Oliver Lodge on "A Retrospect of Wireless Communications," Sir James Jeans on "Beyond the Milky Way," and Dr. S. Kemp on "Oceanography in the Antarctic."

A public lecture, non-members included, will be given by Mr. Angus Macrae on "Guidance in the Choice of an Occupation," at 3:30 P. M. on Monday, September 28, in the London School of Economics. Other public lectures will be arranged in several of the polytechnic institutions.

Receptions will be given as follows: At the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, in connection with the visit on Thursday afternoon, September 24; at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W.1, on Thursday afternoon, September 24, from 4 to 6 P. M.; by the Royal Society to invited delegates, in connection with the Faraday Centenary Celebration, on Thursday evening, September 24; by H. M. Government in the Imperial Institute on Friday evening, September 25, beginning at 9 P. M.; by the founder and director of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum on Friday evening, September 25, beginning at 8:30 P. M.; at the Hampton Court Palace on Saturday afternoon, September 26; in the Court and the Senate of the University of London and at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum on Monday evening, September 28; at the Forum Women's Club, on Tuesday afternoon, September 29; by the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London, on Wednesday evening, September 30, at Guildhall.

The reception of members has also been arranged in connection with many other excursions and visits.

An invited party will visit York, the birthplace of the association, on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27. Down House, the home of Darwin, now held by the association in custody for the nation, will be open to members throughout the meeting.

Interesting exhibits of importance have been arranged at various institutions during the meetings.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY

PROFESSOR JOHN A. FULTON, director of the Mackay School of Mines, Reno, Nevada, invited authorities on silver to present their views at a luncheon and round table discussion, held at the Hotel Utah, on Thursday, September 3, in connection with the international convention of the Electrochemical Society meeting from September 2 to 5 in Salt Lake City. The state of Utah is the largest silver-producing state in the union, furnishing over 25 per cent. of the total production in the United States. Mining, metallurgy and the utilization of silver were carefully considered.

On Wednesday, September 2, an entire session was devoted to cyanides in metallurgy, which has an important bearing on the gold situation. Due to many improvements made in the cyanide process, gold can to-day be recovered from ores which were formerly considered worthless. Dr. Dorsey A. Lyon, of the University of Utah, presided.

A session on miscellaneous electrochemical papers took place on Thursday, September 3. Professor Jean Billiter, of the University of Vienna, Austria, described his new electrical apparatus for the purification of drinking water. Dr. M. Sem, of Oslo, Norway, presented data on the new Soderberg electrode. This electrode is from four to five feet in diameter and has been used with success in the production of carbide. Mr. W. E. Moore, well-known furnace expert of Pittsburgh, reported on the latest developments in electric furnace design.

The Edward Goodrich Acheson Medal was presented to Dr. Edwin Fitch Northrup, vice-president of the Electrothermic Corporation, of Trenton, New Jersey, on September 3. An award of $1,000 in cash accompanies the medal. Dr. Northrup is well known for his work in electric furnace design. After the award of the medal, Dr. Northrup addressed the members and guests on "What is Electricity?"

Flotation, the process by which valuable metals in any ore can be readily and cheaply segregated, is the subject of the symposium, to be held on Saturday, September 5. Professor A. M. Gaudin, of the Montana School of Mines, will preside. This metallurgical process was invented by Miss Carrie J. Everson, of Denver, Colorado. The introduction of flotation has completely revolutionized mining and metallurgy within the last ten years. Among those who will participate in the symposium are Professor Herbert Freundlich, of Berlin; Dr. Oliver C. Ralston, of the United Verde Copper Company; Dr. Edmund S. Leaver, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, and four engineers of the American Cyanamid Company.

THE AWARD OF THE PRIZE OF THE RESEARCH CORPORATION

DR. ANDREW ELLICOTT DOUGLASS has received the $2,500 prize of the Research Corporation through the Smithsonian Institution for his work in establishing the date of the construction of Pueblo Bonito in Northern Mexico by the measurement of tree rings. The field work was done on the pre-Columbian Beam Research Expedition of the National Geographic Society of which Dr. Douglass was leader.

In the report of his work to the National Geographic Society Dr. Douglass wrote: