

Butler, director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and president of Columbia University, and Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, president emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

THE ninth William Thompson Sedgwick Memorial Lecture will be given in the central lecture room of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Tuesday, December 1, at four-thirty o'clock by Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, institute for the history of medicine, University of Leipzig, Germany, on "The Philosophy of Hygiene."

IN honor of the late Charles S. Sargent, for many years director of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, a memorial arch will be erected across Center St., Jamaica Plain, near the Arboretum.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of Schaudinn's discovery of the *Spirocheta pallida* was celebrated by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia at a special meeting held on November 9. During the day there was a historical exhibit of incunabula, rare books, prints, portraits and medals relating to the whole history of syphilis, and a technical exhibit of equipment used in the various modern methods of diagnosis, with repeated demonstrations. About 2,000 persons visited these exhibits. In the evening the following papers were read to an audience of about three hundred: "Is Syphilis America's Gift to the World?" by Dr. Jay F. Schamberg; "Fracastoro and his Poem," by Professor Henry E. Sigerist, Leipzig; "Schaudinn," by Dr. John H. Stokes.

UNDER auspices of the New York Museum of Science and Industry, Dr. Elihu Thomson, director of research of the Thomson Laboratories of the General Electric Company, and Professor Dugald C. Jackson, head of the electrical engineering department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke at an especially arranged meeting in observance of the Michael Faraday Centenary. The addresses were delivered to an invited group of scientists, technologists and industrial leaders in the auditorium of the Engineering Societies Building, New York City.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. JOSEPH CLARK STEPHENSON, professor of anatomy at Louisiana State University Medical Center, died in New Orleans on November 10 at the age of forty-five years.

DR. GEORGE ROGER ALBERTSON, formerly professor of anatomy and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota, died on November 3 at the age of eighty-five years.

DR. WALTER FRANCIS REID, one of the original members of the Society of Chemical Industry, of which he was president in 1910, the inventor of smokeless powder, died on November 18. He was eighty-one years old.

THE death is announced of Dr. James Sholto Cameron Douglas, professor of pathology in the University of Sheffield and dean of the Medical School.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXPECTED MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN LONDON

THE *British Medical Journal* says that an epidemic of measles in London, according to a report of the Central Public Health Committee of the London County Council, is expected during this autumn and winter. Measles epidemics in London appear to occur biennially, beginning in the late autumn, reaching their meridian in March, and taking some six or seven months to complete the circle of London. The last epidemic occurred in the autumn and winter of 1929-30, and the next is therefore almost due. During each measles epidemic in London not fewer than 50,000 children are affected. The committee points out that measles is an infection which does not lend itself ideally to hospital treatment, and therefore home nursing should be encouraged in all cases where it can be carried out under reasonably favorable conditions. Where satisfactory home nursing can not be obtained,

every effort should be made to secure the patient's admission to hospital at as early a stage of the illness as possible. The council has 4,634 beds in its town fever hospitals, and 2,868 more in outlying and convalescent hospitals. During measles epidemics every case of scarlet fever that can either be kept at home or sent to one of the outlying hospitals renders a hospital bed available for measles. It is considered that if measles cases are admitted before complications have developed, a period of fourteen days is usually adequate for hospital treatment. The number of beds that can be set apart for measles depends largely on the incidence of diphtheria, which must be given priority of admission over both scarlet fever and measles; much depends also upon the incidence of small-pox. If the fever hospital accommodation is unduly taxed for other conditions, arrangements will have to be made for assistance from the general hospitals under the council's control during the period of expected

greatest pressure—namely, February to April, 1932. Attention is drawn to the assistance which the public, especially parents, can give. Despite much propaganda, the belief persists that measles can be lightly treated without medical and nursing assistance; yet during the last four years measles has caused eight times as many deaths as scarlet fever, and one and a half times as many as diphtheria. The deaths from measles in London are diminishing, however, as seen from the figures for recent quinquenniums:

1906-10.....	9,538	1921-25.....	3,859
1911-15.....	9,596	1926-30.....	3,715
1916-20.....	5,830		

Important points in mitigating the effects of an epidemic are: (1) to make every effort to postpone contraction of the disease until after the third or fifth year, because the younger the child the greater is the risk of serious illness; (2) to secure adequate medical, nursing and hygienic care; (3) to have regard to the fact that measles is particularly fatal among children under-nourished or living under unfavorable conditions.

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH POLAR REGIONS

PLANS for intensive study of weather conditions in the North Polar regions during 1932, designed to provide comprehensive information on air movements and other meteorological data as a basis for improvement of weather forecasting, were developed at the recent conference of the executive council of the International Meteorological Organization in Locarno, Switzerland. According to Dr. C. W. Marvin, chief of the United States Weather Bureau, who gave the information to a representative of the *U. S. Daily*, the program is to be carried on by practically every country with possessions in the northern hemisphere.

Plans originally developed for the studies included establishment of additional weather observatories in the Arctic regions. Some of these will be provided, but economic conditions have been such that some of the governments involved have had to curtail their plans. However, additional observations are to be made at stations already existing where new stations can not be established, and every available means to increase information on polar conditions will be used.

Canada is to establish additional stations in the northern regions. The United States already had provided extra funds for studies in Alaska, primarily with a view to development of airways, so increased funds probably will not be asked. Russia, Norway, Sweden, Greenland and other northerly nations are cooperating.

The objective is to discover the laws of physics in the atmosphere and of its great, general circula-

tion. Information is wanted on the atmosphere from pole to pole. Whether or not the information obtained will enable extension of the period for which weather forecasts can be made accurately can not yet be foretold.

THE WILD-LIFE PROBLEM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

As the first step toward correlating and solving the wild-life problem of the growing national park system, three representatives of the park service of the University of California, Joseph Dixon, economic mammalogist; George M. Wright, alumnus of the University of California, and Ben H. Thompson, alumnus of Stanford University, are preparing an inventory and preliminary report which has necessitated more than two years of study and 43,000 miles of travel through thirteen parks in this country and four in Canada.

Among the recommendations of the survey are: (1) the future restoration of exterminated species of birds and animals, such as wild turkey in parks of the Southwest, and mountain sheep in Yosemite; (2) development of protection for species which are threatened with extinction, such as the trumpeter swan of Yellowstone; (3) control of species which have become too abundant through increase in food supply or disappearance of natural enemies, such as deer in Yosemite and the Kaibab, and bear in the Yellowstone; (4) fixing of boundaries in present and future parks to include winter as well as summer range and protection for animals; and (5) overcoming conflict between wild-life species, or between wild-life and humans, such as the eating of planted fish by birds, and the encroachment of bears and skunks on human habitations.

The suggestion that such a survey be made came from Mr. Wright while he was serving as an assistant park naturalist in Yosemite. To overcome possible difficulties he volunteered to sponsor the survey until the government is in a position to take it over.

The ultimate purpose of the survey, after determining the immediate wild-life problems of national parks in order of urgency, is to assist Director Albright in formulating a definite wild-life policy to maintain the parks in as near to their original condition as possible through future generations. In addition it will provide the necessary data for the use of the director in organizing a permanent wild-life division in the National Park Service.

RETIREMENT OF DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES

DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES, who was retired from active duty in the U. S. Public Health Service on October 1, 1931, was tendered a farewell dinner