

and observer of meteors, who died on June 9. The tablet was unveiled on Dec. 18 by Dr. H. Knox-Shaw, president of the Royal Astronomical Society, in the presence of a number of Mr. Denning's relatives and friends.

It is reported in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a committee has been formed that counts among its honorary members eminent anatomists and embryologists of all lands, while the executive committee is composed of Belgian scientists, presided over by Professor Leon Crisner. The committee was appointed to honor the memory of Albert Brachet, director of the Institute of Anatomy and Embryology at Brussels. It plans to establish an Albert Brachet prize to be awarded by the Academy of Sciences of Belgium, with which to reward the best research done in the domain of embryology.

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. JOHAN AUGUST UDDEN, director of the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, died at his home in Austin, Texas, on January 5, aged seventy-three years. He was born in Sweden and migrating to Minnesota received his A.B. degree from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, where he was professor from 1888 to 1911. He became interested in geology through the memorable work of

Meek and Worthen being done at that time on the Illinois Geological Survey. He went to Texas in 1911 and has been largely instrumental in the development of the mineral wealth of the state. For his discoveries linking together systematic geology and mining he was knighted by the King of Sweden in 1911. It was on Dr. Udden's advice that the drilling which resulted in the oil fields of west Texas was begun. He also incited the exploration of the Permian of western Texas for potash. Dr. Udden has been active in scientific work throughout the country.

DR. BURTON ALEXANDER RANDALL, professor emeritus of otology at the University of Pennsylvania, died on January 4, at the age of seventy-three years.

DR. HENRY L. FRIEDBURG, professor emeritus of chemistry at the College of the City of New York and lecturer at Hunter College, died on December 29. He was eighty-six years old.

DR. WILLIAM BRIAN DUNCAN, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University, died on December 18 at the age of thirty-three years.

THE death at the age of sixty-four years is announced of Dr. J. P. Lotsy, of Leiden, secretary of the International Association of Botanists.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ITALIAN PROFESSORS AND THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT

A GROUP of leading Harvard professors, headed by Dr. Roscoe Pound, dean of the Harvard Law School, has requested the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations to consider ways and means by which Italian university professors may escape the obligation to take the oath of allegiance to the Fascist régime. The letter reads:

We, professors and members of the various faculties of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America, take the liberty of bringing to the attention of the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation the Royal Decree of the Italian Government of August 28, 1931, No. 1227.

This decree imposes upon all university professors of the Kingdom of Italy—and among all state officials of the Department of Education it is applicable to university professors alone—the obligation to take an oath which implies complete adherence without reservation or discussion to a particular system of political ideas.

Since political doctrines no less than all others should be the subject of discussion and revision, it seems to us that this oath involves an intellectual coercion which is incompatible with the ideals of scholars. As such, we feel that the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation among Nations can not ignore it. In no other way can the peoples of the world better promote intellectual coopera-

tion than by extending mutual assistance to each other to secure to all scholars those conditions of freedom under which disinterested search for truth alone becomes possible.

We, therefore, request the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation to consider ways and means by which the Italian university professors may best be helped to defend their intellectual liberty.

The oath required of the Italian professors is as follows:

I swear to be faithful to the King and his royal successors and to the Fascist régime, to observe loyally the statute and other laws of the state; to exercise the teaching function and to fulfill all academic duties with the purpose of forming citizens active, bold and devoted to the fatherland and to the Fascist régime. I swear that I do not belong and will never belong to any association or party the activities of which are not in harmony with the duties of my office.

Eleven professors have refused to take this oath and have lost their university chairs.

### MINERAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

A NEW mineral research program has been inaugurated by the Illinois State Geological Survey, located on the campus of the University of Illinois, at Urbana.