

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.

Hitherto, the organization has concerned itself primarily with the study of the raw materials and rock substances of the state. This class of work will be continued, but the new program proposes to take advantage of the information already gathered (and that which later surveys will reveal), and extend the scope of research to cover utilization and marketing as well.

The new program proposes:

- (1) To secure and make available both scientific and economic data which will nourish and promote the state's mineral industries;
- (2) To investigate thoroughly the constitution and properties of all Illinois rock and mineral substances, paving the way for maximum utilization, either by improvement of present uses or discovery of new uses, or both;
- (3) To bring the fundamental information to such a point that it can be used directly by industries and private individuals to exploit deposits to the fullest and most profitable extent;
- (4) To make known the production and flow of minerals into and out of Illinois, the marketing opportunities, existing obstacles or limitations, and trends in the various industries.

New laboratories for the researches, with the most up-to-date equipment obtainable, were recently dedicated, the ceremonies being attended by leading mineral producers, manufacturers, business leaders, geologists and representatives of universities and scientific societies of Illinois and the middle west.

Dr. M. M. Leighton, chief of the Geological Survey, has made a number of recent staff appointments, to supplement the work of his regular geologic staff. The additions to the personnel are as follows:

Enid Townley, M.S., associate geologist and assistant to the chief  
 Judson R. Griffin, Ph.D., assistant geologist  
 Ralph E. Grim, Ph.D., petrographer  
 Robert J. Piersol, Ph.D., physicist  
 Frank H. Reed, Ph.D., chief chemist  
 Gilbert Thiessen, Ph.D., associate chemist  
 Charles F. Fryling, Ph.D., chemist  
 Orin W. Rees, Ph.D., associate chemist  
 Wm. D. Allers, B.S., chemistry assistant  
 John Robinson, B.S., chemistry assistant  
 L. D. McVicker, chemistry assistant  
 Carl Westerburg, chemistry assistant  
 Walter H. Voskuil, Ph.D., mineral economist

#### THE JOURNAL OF CELLULAR AND COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY

At a meeting of the Advisory Board of the Wistar Institute, held on May 19, 1931, a resolution was passed requesting that a meeting of representatives of each journal published by the Wistar Institute be held for the purpose of considering methods by which the

material offered for publication in the several Wistar Institute journals might be best accommodated.

Later, on June 14, a conference of editors was held at the Morris Biological Farm of the institute, and steps were taken to suggest certain improvements in the preparation of papers for publication in the institute's journals. At the same time it was suggested that a new physiological journal be established to accommodate physiological papers which now appear in the anatomical or zoological journals.

This meeting was followed on August 12 by a meeting, held at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, of physiologists and others interested in the proposed new journal of physiology, and a group of physiologists was selected to organize the proposed journal, select a managing editor, and add to its number if it seemed desirable.

On October 17 and 18 the physiologists met at the Morris Biological Farm and decided upon the policy of the journal, selected a managing editor, and added to their number certain other physiologists, representing other phases of the science or other geographical regions. Dr. E. Newton Harvey, of Princeton University, was chosen managing editor. The other members of the board of editors are: W. R. Amberson, University of Tennessee; D. W. Bronk, University of Pennsylvania; M. H. Jacobs, University of Pennsylvania; R. S. Lillie, University of Chicago; E. K. Marshall, Jr., the Johns Hopkins University; G. H. Parker, Harvard University; A. C. Redfield, Harvard University; H. W. Smith, New York University, and L. Irving, University of Toronto.

The announcement of the *Journal* reads as follows:

Owing to the increasing number of papers in the field of general and comparative physiology now published in journals not primarily devoted to this subject, it has appeared desirable to bring the material together in one publication. The proposed *Journal of Cellular and Comparative Physiology* is intended as a medium for the publication of papers which embody the results of original research of a quantitative or analytical nature in these fields, including both their physical and chemical aspects. Short preliminary notices are not desired and papers will not be accepted for simultaneous publication or which have been previously published elsewhere. While not specifically excluding any particular branch of physiology, contributors should recognize that excellent journals already exist for publication in the field of experimental and physiological zoology, dealing particularly with genetics, behavior, developmental mechanics, sex determination, and hormonal interrelationships, and also for pure mammalian functional physiology and the physical chemistry of non-living systems. Preference will be given to analyses of fundamental physiological phenomena whether the material is vertebrate or invertebrate, plant or animal.

It is recognized that prompt publication is essential, and the aim will be to issue papers within two months