OBITUARY

WILSON ALWYN BENTLEY

WILSON ALWYN BENTLEY, member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and fellow of the American Meteorological Society, was born at Jericho, Vermont, on February 9, 1865. Here he lived the whole of his quiet life, and here died on December 23, 1931. One of his great-grandfathers, Roger Stevens, on his father's side, was a soldier through the Revolutionary War. A great-aunt, Anna Bentley, married Martin Chittenden, twice governor of Vermont. His father, Thomas Edwin Bentley, was an up-to-date farmer for his time and place. His mother, Fannie Eliza Bentley, was a daughter of Moses Coleton, a lumber dealer of Bolton, Vermont. He is survived by a brother, C. F. Bentley, of Andover, Vermont, and certain nephews and nieces. He was of the third generation of Bentleys to live at, or near, Jericho, his grandfather being one of the first settlers of that place.

His boyhood was like that of most New England lads on a small farm, uneventful but wholesome. He attended the local public schools, but acquired no further formal education. Thus far nothing whatever in his life had singled him apart for special mention. Then came, by way of his mother, as so many good things do come, the vision that to the end of his days more and more absorbed his attention, and increasingly made the world his debtor. This was when she showed him the beauty of the snow crystal as seen through a small microscope. He was fascinated and began at once to search every snow that came for the more perfect of its fleeting gems. At first he copied what he saw as best he could with pen or pencil, but this was unsatisfactory. The minute details were difficult to represent, and often melted away before he had had time properly to study and copy them. He therefore soon fixed up a photomicrographic camera which afforded accurate and quicker results. He developed his own technique and acquired a remarkable skill, necessary, of course, in dealing with so delicate and so transient a thing as the tiny snow crystal. He taught music one year, 1885–86, but with that exception his young manhood was spent mainly in labor on the farm. During the last 20 years of his life, however, he lived practically alone (he never married) and gave all his time and attention to his pictures, of which he had several thousand, and to which he added many more every winter.

His first article appeared in 1898. After this he contributed a number of papers on frost and the snow crystal to various publications, and furnished many pictures to authors for use in books and magazines. He also gave an occasional lecture on his hobby, and furnished slides for others to use.

Naturally he dreamed of a great book that should contain many hundreds of his pictures of snow and frost. Artists and others also hoped that some suitable publication might be made of this remarkable collection of pictures which it had taken a devoted lifetime to obtain. The realization of his dream was difficult to effect, but at last it was accomplished. Then, after about three weeks of real happiness, he was joined by the "old man's friend," pneumonia.

Thus the drama ends of the kindly "Snowflake Man" of Jericho, whose thousands of pictures long had been classic, and to whose honored doorstep, however secluded and humble, all the world had worn a path in recognition of true worth.

W. J. HUMPHREYS

MEMORIALS

DR. DENMAN W. ROSS has presented to Harvard University a portrait of the late Theodore W. Richards by Kanji Nakamura, to be placed in the Chemical Laboratory.

THE President's Medal of the National Academy of Design was awarded posthumously to Samuel F. B. Morse, artist and inventor of the telegraph. It was presented on March 28 to his son, William Goodrich Morse, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where a special loan exhibition of Morse's paintings was held. The President's Medal has been awarded only once before, Mr. Elihu Root being the recipient.

IN connection with the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Goethe, *Forschungen und Fortschritte*, Berlin, has published a special number reviewing Goethe's contributions to science, including mathematics, vision, optics, chemistry, geology, meteorology, botany, zoology and anatomy.

A DARWIN exhibition is to be opened at the Communist Academy in Leningrad on April 19, on the fiftieth anniversary of Darwin's death, and a joint meeting of the Communist Academy and the Academy of Sciences is to be held in his honor.

DR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, pharmacist and curator of the Fielding Herbarium, Oxford, whose death was reported in SCIENCE last week, has bequeathed his herbarium and library with his house and an endowment for a Botanical Institute at Oxford.

SIR RICHARD WILLIAMS has been appointed president and Professor Gibson treasurer of a fund to purchase for a museum the cottage at Llangerniew, Den-

bighshire, Wales, where Sir Henry Jones, the philosopher, was born.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ALBERT PERRY BRIGHAM, professor emeritus of geology at Colgate University, died on April 1, in his seventy-seventh year.

DEAN FRANCIS M. HARTMANN, professor of electrical engineering and dean of the school of engineering of Cooper Union, died on March 28, at the age of sixty-one years.

MR. W. W. ASHE, senior inspector in the Forest Service, died on March 18, as the result of an operation. Mr. Ashe is known for contributions in the field of dendrology, his specialty being the hardwoods of the Southeastern United States. He was the author of numerous publications on forestry and had for many years been active in the development of the acquisition of forest lands by the Federal Government.

PROFESSOR HENRY JAMES PRIESTLEY, professor of mathematics and physics in the University of Queensland, died at Brisbane on February 26, at the age of forty-eight years.

THE death is announced at the age of fifty-four years of Professor Giuseppe Martinelli, assistant secretary of the Pontifical Academy of Science, Vatican City, and assistant in the Bureau of Meteorology and Geophysics, Rome.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE MACAULAY INSTITUTE FOR SOIL RESEARCH

ACCORDING to a statement in the *Experiment Station Record,* this institute was established in Scotland in 1930 through the initiative of Mr. T. B. Macaulay, of Montreal, Canada. Following the purchase and endowment by Mr. Macaulay in 1929 of land for a peat-land demonstration farm on the Island of Lewis in the western Hebrides group, provision was made for the opening of laboratories on the mainland where research connected with Scottish soils in general could be conducted. The institute was accordingly incorporated under a committee of management of eleven members selected by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland and the Scottish agricultural colleges.

A tract of about 50 acres situated at Craigiebuckler on the outskirts of Aberdeen was acquired and equipped with funds contributed by Mr. Macaulay. A large mansion house on the property was fitted up into offices, a library, laboratories and similar purposes. A range of greenhouses was already available, and a cage for pot experiments was constructed in the two-acre walled-in garden. The fields are being laid out into plats to study the effects of lime and different systems of cultivation and manuring, but it is expected that much of the field work of the institute will be carried on in other parts of the country representative of the various soil types.

Funds for the maintenance of the work are at present being provided by the British Development Commission. Close cooperation is being maintained with other institutions in both research and advisory work. The institute has taken over the lysimeter studies of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture at Graibstone, and there have been some curtailments and readjustments at other institutions with a view to the concentration of soil investigations to a large extent at the institute. It is thought that a well-equipped soil institute with an adequate staff will be in a much better position than isolated workers in several different centers to deal with the intricate problems of the very variable soils of Scotland.

In addition to the joint work with the colleges, there will be an increasing amount of collaboration with other research institutions, as in nutrition problems connected with deficiencies in certain soils. The institute is already cooperating with the Scottish Animal Diseases Research Association in questions of malnutrition of mountain sheep and with the Scottish Plant Breeding Station regarding grasses suitable for peat land.

The present staff of the institute consists of a director, Dr. W. G. Ogg; a secretary; a soil geologist; specialists for moorland work, soil surveys and drainage analysis; a technical assistant, and a part-time surveyor and advisory officer who lectures at the West of Scotland College during the winter months. Later it is hoped to add a bacteriologist, an ecologist and an engineer.

THE EDWARD ORTON, JR., CERAMIC FOUNDATION

The Ohio State University Monthly reports that to preserve the enterprise he founded in the interests of the industry to which he gave the best years of his life as a man of science, engineer, teacher and manufacturer, the Edward Orton, Jr., Ceramic Foundation is created by the will of General Edward Orton, Jr., who died on February 10. The will was probated on February 24.

The foundation is established for two purposes: to continue the manufacture and sale of the highest grade pyrometric cones, used in industry, and to use the profits therefrom to advance "the ceramic arts and industries in the United States." Under the will, the