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

estate is divided into two parcels. The first, comprising General Orton's cone manufacturing business, known as the Standard Pyrometric Cone Co., will be used to establish the foundation. The second will consist of the residue of the estate and is left to Mrs. Orton.

The proceeds of a life insurance policy for $10,000 are left to the Ohio State University for the maintenance there of the Edward Orton Memorial Library of Geology, which General Orton had established in memory of his father, the first president of the university, and to which he had annually given $500 for books.

The will sets up a self-perpetuating board of trustees to administer the foundation. It will consist of the following: The president of the Ohio State University, a representative of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the head of the engineering experiment station of the Ohio State University, the head of the department of Ceramic Engineering of the Ohio State University, the secretary of the American Ceramic Society and one other representative of the society chosen for a three-year term, and an attorney. The trustees will receive $1 a year and expenses. The trustees are to organize within 90 days and take over the cone business and provide for its operation. The will designates Colonel Simeon Nash, General Orton's attorney, as the attorney member of the board.

If for any reason it becomes impossible to continue to operate the business successfully, the trustees are authorized, with approval of the probate court, to close the business and to turn the assets over to the Ohio State University as part of the irreducible debt of the state of Ohio, the income therefrom to be used for ceramic research either through the university's department of ceramic engineering or its experiment station.

The research division of the foundation may be set up as a part of the cone manufacturing establishment or separately, at the discretion of the trustees. In the latter case, the will suggests, it "would be used principally to stimulate and assist research, and to coordinate, supervise and supplement researches undertaken in the ceramic department and engineering experiment station of the Ohio State University, or by other laboratories or groups of laboratories. . . ." In such case also the research director would be authorized to "furnish personnel or loan equipment to laboratories cooperating with him." The will further provides that results of research promoted by the foundation shall be published "to the end that said results shall be given freely to the public and made available for ceramic engineering use."

The board of trustees is directed not to "sell or permit its agents and employees to sell, or to make any charge, direct or indirect, for any information furnished through or by said research department, to the end that all surplus over and above the cost of production made upon the sale of Standard Pyrometric Cones shall be returned to the ceramic industries in the form of technical knowledge."

The will further provides that, since the estate is "severely depleted" because of the creation of the trust and there has thus been taken from it "its chief income producing element," for five years there shall be paid to Mrs. Orton specified sums from current earnings of the cone business. Mrs. Orton and Colonel Nash were named coexecutors of the will, which requested that they be not required to furnish bond.

MARINE EXPEDITION TO THE WEST INDIES

THE International Expedition to the West Indies completed its work at Miami on March 19. The major results of the expedition include 4,000 miles of sonic sounding and 64 gravity stations at sea and on the island. The maximum depth registered in the Bartlett Trough was 4,000 fathoms, which is supposed to be 400 fathoms deeper than shown on any previous soundings. Twenty-nine of the gravity stations at sea have already been computed and, while it is perhaps too early to make a definite statement as to the major structural characteristics of the West Indian region and especially of the Bahamas, it would appear as if the Bahama region as a whole was acting as a single block of the earth's crust and that this block has undergone vertical movements of the first order.

The determination of gravity on the islands has been under the direction of Lieutenant Joseph P. Lushene, who operated from the yacht *Marmion*, loaned and navigated by Mr. Hugh Matheson, of Miami. Owing to the skill of Mr. Matheson and Lieutenant Lushene, this unit of the expedition succeeded in making 12 gravity stations in approximately 30 days.

The council and personnel of the expedition are deeply indebted to the U. S. Navy, and especially to the personnel of the submarine S-48 and the rescue vessel *Chewink* for their interest and extreme helpfulness in carrying out the program of sonic sounding and determination of gravity at sea. Dr. F. A. Vening Meinesz, who was in charge of the most important part of the program, was assisted by a representative of the Naval Laboratories and Mr. Harry Hess, Procter fellow of geology at Princeton University. Dr. Meinesz and Mr. Hess are at present of the opinion that, while the Bartlett Trough is, as has already been supposed, largely a structural feature and at present probably the main zone of weakness