families Rosaceae (including Malaceae), Ericaceae (including Vacciniaceae), Juglandaceae, Fagaceae and Poaceae.

Ashe was a quiet and retiring man, a hard worker, utilizing his personal time largely in study and writing; he was keenly observant, markedly original and independent, with a fine sense of humor, and with high standards of thought and conduct.

WILLIAM A. DAYTON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. WILLIAM W. KEEN, emeritus professor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, died on June 7 at the age of ninety-five years.

DR. NATHAN AUGUSTUS COBB, of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, died on June 4 at the age of seventy-three years.

DR. VIRGIL COBLENTZ, of Philadelphia, formerly professor of chemistry in the New York College of Pharmacy and chief chemist of E. R. Squibb and Sons, died suddenly on June 10. He was seventy-six years old.

EDWIN JULIUS BARTLETT, professor emeritus of chemistry at Dartmouth College, died on June 10 at the age of eighty-one years.

HERBERT PARLIN JOHNSON, formerly assistant professor of zoology in the University of California and associate professor of bacteriology in the School of Medicine at St. Louis University, died suddenly on April 29 at the age of sixty-eight years.

THE death is announced on May 29 of Dr. Cuthbert Christy, London naturalist, explorer and expert in tropical diseases. He was sixty-eight years old.

MISS NORA E. DALBEY, associate professor of botany, Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, who was carrying on special work in cytology while on leave of absence, died at Merritt Hospital, Oakland, California, on May 23. Miss Dalbey received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas. She has been at Kansas State College since 1918.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Anthony Spuler, associate entomologist of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, State College of Washington, Pullman, and Mrs. Spuler were drowned at Lake Wenatchee, Washington, on Memorial Day when their small motor boat capsized in a storm. Mr. Spuler received his bachelor's degree in zoology in 1917 and his master's degree in 1919 from the State College of Washington, and has been a member of the teaching and experiment station staff of that institution since his graduation. He was best known for his work in developing the use of moth traps as an indicator of the time to spray for codling moth control and for his research on oil sprays and other insecticides. Many of the results obtained in his investigations are the bases of established orchard practices in the Pacific Northwest."

Nature records the deaths of R. H. Adie, formerly secretary of the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, and the Hon. Mrs. Huia Onslow (Muriel Wheldale Onslow), university lecturer in plant biochemistry in the University of Cambridge.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GIFTS TO THE BRITISH NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

AMONG the important acquisitions made by the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) and reported in the London *Times* are two considerable gifts from Mr. A. S. Vernay.

Some 60 mammals and 590 birds obtained by the Vernay-Lang expedition to the Kalahari Desert in 1930 have been presented by him, together with 264 flowering plants and ferns from the same region. The mammals include specimens of 11 forms described in South Africa as new to science, and the plant collections, from an area poor in flora and imperfectly known, make a welcome addition to the small representation hitherto possessed by the museum. The second gift from Mr. Vernay consists of 184 mammals, 29 reptiles, 34 fishes and 500 butterflies obtained by Captain Beresford Holloway, who accompanied the donor on his recent expedition to the Malay peninsula.

Other zoological gifts include 70 big-game trophies from India and Africa presented by Sir Richard Dane, and a collection made by Dr. E. B. Worthington during the Cambridge University expedition to the East African Lakes. In this are included 102 reptiles and amphibians, 900 fishes (including about 30 new species), and many molluscs and other invertebrates.

A gift to the Department of Botany is the British herbarium of the late Dr. John Thomas Irwin Boswell (1822–88), presented by Mr. F. J. Hanbury. This herbarium comprises about 20,000 sheets of well-mounted plants, contained in 14 mahogany cabinets. Boswell was the editor of the monumental third edition of the "English Botany," and was long connected with the Botanical Exchange Club as distributor. The accuracy and detail of his descriptions was based upon the material in this collection, which will be kept intact by the wish of the donor, who purchased it on Boswell's death. A collection of 372 Tanganyika

plants has been bought for the department of botany, and the department of geology has bought a specimen of the teeth of the extinct shark *Edestus* from the Devonian rocks of Rhenish Prussia.

Samples of volcanic dust which fell after the recent eruptions in the Andes have been presented to the department of minerals by the proprietors of *The Times* and by Messrs. H. W. Nelson, Limited. Professor G. Vibert Douglas has collected and presented a large series of rocks illustrating the geology and mineralization of several mines in the "copper belt" of Northern Rhodesia and Katanga, and purchase has been made of a series of exceptionally fine crystals from the Tsumeb copper mines in Southwest Africa. Copper, zinc and lead minerals are represented—among them cerussite, anglesite, chessylite, smithsonite and mimetite.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES LIBRARY

THE Engineering Societies Library, New York, reports that, for the first time since the depression began, inquiries are falling off. Geographically, the decrease is uniform, indicating a lessening of industrial and engineering effort in all nations.

Library readers, however, continue to increase. They were ten per cent. more numerous in 1931 than in 1930, and they are still multiplying, according to Director Harrison W. Craver. The present economic situation, while slowing up the quest of industry for technical knowledge bearing upon problems of development, has stimulated the individual engineer to greater intellectual effort.

Jobless engineers and scientific men, according to Mr. Craver, are likely, in the long run, to profit by their enforced leisure, for, during the era of prosperity which came to an end in 1929, they were so immersed in the practical aspects of the tasks that they had little opportunity to keep abreast of engineering advances in other than their own specialized fields. Hence, it is believed, one result of the economic recession will be a broadening of the outlook of the professional engineer in all countries.

"Not until recently," Mr. Craver said, "did the depression affect us at all. Last year nearly 50,000 requests to supply technical information, a record number, were received. This represents a gain of several thousand over the previous year. But now, the slump in industrial operations is being reflected in a diminished demand for investigating service at the library.

Requests for facts, nevertheless, are coming from practically every country and from every state in the Union. They cover almost the entire range of engineering, according to Julian A. Sohon, chief bibliographer.

Soviet Russia, Mr. Sohon said, frequently asks for technical advice through the office of the Amtorg in New York. American engineers working in Russia also write for assistance from time to time.

The New Zealand Government is another conspicuous source of queries, particularly with respect to public works. Many Swedish engineers also turn to the library, which, despite the low ebb of engineering activity, is developing its facilities in preparation for a great industrial era which, engineers believe, lies ahead.

The library is the largest strictly engineering library in America, and probably in the world. It now contains 128,000 volumes, 5,000 pamphlets, 6,321 maps and 3,872 searches. Alten S. Miller, of New York, is chairman of the Library Board for 1932.

FIELD CONFERENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA GEOLOGISTS

THE second annual field conference of Pennsylvania geologists was held in the Lehigh Valley on May 28, 29 and 30, the geology departments of Lehigh University and Lafayette College acting as hosts. Especial mention should be made of the efficient manner in which the trips were planned and carried out, thanks to the able work of the committee in charge, consisting of D. Fraser, A. H. Fretz, B. L. Miller and L. Whitcomb, of Lehigh, and C. K. Cabeen, H. A. Itter, H. Koerner and F. Ward, of Lafayette. About 75 members and guests from outside Pennsylvania registered at Markle Hall, Lafayette College.

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 28, two field trips were offered simultaneously, the visitors choosing between them. Trip No. 1, under Professor Itter, of Lafayette, covered the three members of the Triassic System exposed along the Delaware below Easton, the well-known "Ringing Rocks" and certain exposures of the Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian. Trip No. 2 visited the cement and slate belts of the Lehigh Valley, including quarries and mills, and proved of unusual interest to the non-metallic economic geologists. It was in charge of Dr. B. L. Miller, of Lehigh University. The Saturday activities finished with an informal dinner at Easton. President W. R. Lewis extended a welcome from Lafayette College, and various members spoke very briefly upon the local geology. During a short business session the by-laws drawn up by committee were adopted. These included the appointment of a permanent secretary-treasurer, who must be a member of the Pennsylvania State Geological Survey. Dr. Bradford Willard was selected for this position.

The Sunday, May 29, trip was attended by the entire assembly. The party left Easton by automobile