

THE corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently passed a resolution in tribute to the late George Eastman, who was a life member of the corporation. Mr. Eastman's gifts to the institute amounted to \$20,696,053, which includes a contribution of \$500,000 to the Technology Loan Fund, established to aid worthy students. President Compton stated that Mr. Eastman's contributions to various causes during his lifetime exceeded \$112,000,000. The resolution expressed the corporation's "profound sorrow at the loss of its admired and beloved colleague, and deep appreciation of his outstanding qualities as a pioneer in business and applied science." The resolution, which was drawn up by President Compton and Francis R. Hart, also expressed the gratitude of the corporation for Mr. Eastman's very generous assistance in the upbuilding of the institute.

RECENT DEATHS

FREDERICK HAYNES NEWELL, consulting engineer, formerly director of the U. S. Reclamation Service and later professor of civil engineering at the University of Illinois, died suddenly on July 5, at the age of seventy years.

DR. FRANK PELL UNDERHILL, professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Yale University School of Medicine, died on June 29, at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. JOSEPH LEIDY, physician, of Philadelphia, a nephew of Joseph Leidy, died on July 6 at the age of sixty-six years.

THE REVEREND DR. C. J. S. BETHUNE, the entomologist, died in Toronto on April 18, in his ninety-fourth year.

PROFESSOR NILS ERLAND NORDENSKIÖLD, the Swedish explorer, director of the ethnographic division of the Göteborg Museum, has died at the age of fifty-four years.

THE death is announced of Jean François Heymans, emeritus professor of therapeutics and pharmacodynamics at the University of Ghent.

DR. MITSUTARO SHIRAI, emeritus professor of plant pathology, University of Tokyo, College of Agriculture, died on May 30, aged seventy years. A correspondent writes: "Professor Shirai began his professional career as teacher of forest botany and plant pathology in this university in 1886. The earlier leadership in phytopathology began in Japan in the previous decade with the arrival from Germany of Professors Hilgendorf and his successor, Professor Ahlburg. These men were primarily lecturers on medical botany, but both included lectures on plant diseases. Following this in 1880 one of their Japanese students, S. Matsubara, gave the first regular course in plant pathology. Thus as an organized branch of botanical science, plant pathology may be considered at least as old in Japan as in the United States. Dr. Shirai in his later years had divided his attention between teratology and the history of botany in the Orient including plant pathology and plant culture in general."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

THE annual inspection of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington by the members of the General Board was held on June 28.

According to the report in the *London Times* in the aerodynamics department there were shown models of the engines of the Flying Scotsman and the Royal Scot expresses, which are being used to assess the air resistance of trains. The object of the experiments is to reduce the resistance by modifications to the form of the locomotive and the coaches, and secure economy in the consumption of fuel. The tests are now in progress, and the forces on the model engines and the coaches are being studied separately in the attempt to discover the ideal streamlined train. In the same department is the new compressed air tunnel which has been constructed for the examination of aircraft, and will enable tests to be made under conditions corresponding to those of a full-scale machine of average size flying at 150 miles an hour.

Recent experiments in the engineering department have included tests of ventilators for public vehicles. It has been found that with the use of long-distance coach services, the problem of ventilation has increased in importance. Various types of appliances have been submitted to the laboratory for inspection, and after numerous tests improvements have been suggested for the purpose of securing efficient ventilation without draught. Visitors to the engineering department will also gain information concerning experiments connected with wind pressures on buildings. It is pointed out that in the design of structures which are to be built on exposed sites allowance has to be made for the pressure of wind, and the modern tendency towards the erection of higher and wider buildings has added to the importance of this subject. The aid of the laboratory has been sought in this matter, and it is stated that, as a result of the experiments it has been shown how economy, as well as efficiency, may be secured in the erection of buildings. The department has also produced a set of safety de-