Museum they enjoy an association of interest that can not help but be of the greatest importance in biological research. For these great advantages the departments thus newly housed are deeply indebted to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation and to the Harvard Corporation.

OBITUARY

IRWIN GILLESPIE PRIEST

IRWIN G. PRIEST, chief of the colorimetry section of the National Bureau of Standards, and internationally known as an authority on colorimetry and spectro-photometry, was taken suddenly ill on July 19, while working in his laboratory at the bureau and lived only a few hours afterwards.

Born on a farm near Loudonville, Ohio, on January 26, 1886, he had the misfortune while still a lad to lose his father. Contrary to the advice of relatives and friends, his mother courageously decided to invest her limited funds in her son's education—a sacrifice richly rewarded by his success and by a lifelong filial devotion—and young Priest entered the Ohio State University. Immediately after graduating in 1907 he came to the Bureau of Standards as Dr. Stratton's personal assistant. Thus began his work in optics, to which he applied himself henceforth with zealous enthusiasm. In scanning his fruitful research of a quarter century, one finds no evidence that he ever departed from this field.

In 1913 Mr. Priest was made chief of the colorimetry section, and from that time on he gave his attention largely to fundamental colorimetric problems. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of the spectro-photometer in colorimetric analysis and other lines of research and testing, and he contributed many ideas to the development of various types of spectrophotometric equipment. Much of the theory of interpreting spectrophotometric data in terms of dominant wave-length, purity and brightness is due to Mr. Priest, and his apparatus for the determination of color directly in these terms provided the first adequate means for testing the validity of such interpretation. This instrument, together with other apparatus which he designed, also yielded the first fundamental information regarding the sensibility of the human eye to wave-length change and purity change for nearly white colors.

He regarded the rotary-dispersion colorimetric photometer as his most important personal contribution to apparatus for color measurements. This instrument is admirably adapted not only to the determination of the color temperature and intensity of various incandescent illuminants, but is suitable also for the evaluation of these qualities for the various phases of daylight, such as sunlight, overcast sky and blue sky. His work on the standardization of Lovibond glasses has been of great practical value to the edible oil and mineral oil industries.

Mr. Priest married Miss Edna Ryan, of Washington, D. C., in 1917 and the location of their home, on the border of a wooded valley in sight of his laboratory, symbolized his devotion to his work. To this he gave himself unsparingly. He abhorred slovenliness in scientific work, and the results of his own investigation were published only after numerous repetitions of his measurements, accompanied by the most exacting attention to details.

He was fond of swimming, canoeing, walking and the woods. In his earlier years he gave generously of his time to a large and enthusiastic Boy Scout troop. His instinctive kindliness and keen sense of humor, characterized by a smile which illumined his whole face, endeared him alike to young and old.

Mr. Priest was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Optical Society of America, the American Psychological Association, the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Society of Washington. As secretary (1921–24) and president (1928–29) of the Optical Society of America he was instrumental in bringing this organization to new heights of usefulness and influence. He was a special representative of the Department of Commerce at the International Congress on Illumination held in England last year.

Though his life was short, it was extraordinarily fruitful. His name has been written indelibly upon the pages of the science he loved, and his memory is revered in the hearts of hosts of friends.

LYMAN J. BRIGGS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH UNION OF CHEMICAL SOCIETIES

IN his presidential address to the fifty-first annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, which was opened at University College, Nottingham, England, on July 13, Dr. G. T. Morgan took as his subject, "Ourselves and Kindred Societies," giving a review of the work of the union. Dr. Morgan said in part:

A full complement of subject groups would secure a better way of arranging sectional programs, but if the society achieved its ideal of one subject group for each important division of applied chemistry, such extension could scarcely be effected without encroaching on the territories of certain specialist societies. Would federation in that case ever become feasible? This consideration brought the president to the much-discussed question of the reunion of chemical associations. There were 16 separate societies, he said, for the professional and scientific welfare of chemists. He had made a survey of 14 of them, having a total membership of 23,600 and an income of £46,557 from subscriptions. The total membership figure had no personal significance, since it represented a stage army in which many individuals played several parts. With two exceptions these associations had as their most important function the publication of scientific literature for chemists. The salaries of the administrative staffs amounted to £16,000, and general office expenses to £10,900. The publication and distribution of scientific literature was, however, becoming so expensive that that society and the Chemical Society had come to an agreement in regard to the production of chemical abstracts. If all these 14 societies, which collectively had a surplus income of £2,800 over expenditure, would work in harmony and pool their financial resources, what a splendid position they would assume among the learned professions! It was high time to evolve a consolidated chemical organization with a comprehensive journal worthy of the British Empire.

The annual report showed a net decrease of 131 members. This was attributed mainly to the depression in industry and heavy taxation, but the number of new members exceeded that of recent years. Despite a reduction of £1,341 in expenditure the income was exceeded by £487.

Dr. R. H. Pickard was elected president, and Mr. H. Ballantyne, Mr. J. T. Dunn, Mr. E. D. Mason and Mr. J. Davidson Pratt were appointed members of the council. Next year's conference will be held at Newcastle.

DAIRY SCIENCE PUBLICATION

FOR the past fourteen years the American Dairy Science Association has sponsored the publication of the *Journal of Dairy Science*. Commencing with the January number of this year, this association has undertaken the management of its journal, having secured the services of The Science Press Printing Company, a firm specializing in scientific printing, to print and render other services for the journal.

According to a statement sent by one of the officers, it was felt by the American Dairy Science Association that it had a dual responsibility, since it is interested in the development of dairy science and in the dairy industry. The opportunity which was available to this association to assist in the promotion of new scientific findings in the industry as well as to scientific men was accepted as a responsibility to service the dairy industry to an even greater extent than in former years and it was largely for this reason that the association has assumed a larger part in the management of its journal.

The *Journal of Dairy Science* is the only journal published in this country devoted exclusively to dairy science. Articles are accepted for publication almost wholly on the basis of containing new facts and new discoveries in dairy science or the application of science to the industry. The data from which the author draws his conclusions are given in sufficient detail to permit the reader to study them if he so desires. No endeavor is made to popularize the results of these investigations, since this activity is so well cared for by several dairy trade journals.

A recent number of the journal illustrates the type of material which it publishes. There is an article on the uniformity of the lactose and chloride content of milk from the view-point of their influence upon flavor. Two articles are concerned with bacteriology, the one being on the effectiveness of pasteurization in destroying the organisms which cause undulant fever and the other being concerned with a method of sterilizing acidophilus milk. There are two articles on the food value of dairy products, the one being on the vitamin content of milk throughout the year and the other dealing with the digestibility of the proteins in dried milk. There are two articles on the corrosion of metals used in plant equipment by milk. One article is concerned with the body and texture of processed cheese. The amount of material dealing with the feeding and management of dairy cattle is rather meager in this number, since there is but one article dealing with alfalfa as a principal or sole diet for dairy cows. In considering these articles it should be remembered that they are not popular discussions on these subjects, but deal entirely with data experimentally secured by the various authors.

Under the new arrangement the journal is managed by a committee, of which O. F. Hunziker, Blue Valley Creamery Company, Chicago, is chairman. The journal is edited by A. C. Dahlberg, New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., and a group of associate editors who are specialists in various phases of dairy science.

THE PLACEMENT BUREAU OF THE FEDERATION OF BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE placement bureau of the Federation of Biological Societies, which was organized some ten or twelve years ago, following a suggestion by the late Dr. S. J. Meltzer, has since 1924 been under the direction of Dr. C. W. Edmunds, of the Department of Pharmacology of the University of Michigan. The