He was consulting geologist for the city of Detroit in establishing a suitable location for the Detroit River tunnel, and many shorter papers and reports are found in geological publications.

Professor Sherzer did his postgraduate work at the Universities of Michigan and Berlin. The doctorate was conferred on him by the former in 1901. Born at Franklin, Ohio, he died at his summer home near Ann Arbor at the age of seventy-two years.

FREDERICK R. GORTON
STATE NORMAL COLLEGE,
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HUGH A. BROWN, director of reclamation economics in the Interior Department, died suddenly on August 13.

W. H. SCHUERMAN, dean of the school of engineering at Vanderbilt University, died suddenly on August 11 at the age of seventy-three years.

DR. EDWARD W. TAYLOR, emeritus professor of neurology at Harvard University, one-time editor of *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* and associate editor of *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases,* died on August 17 at the age of sixty-six years.

THE death is announced of Charles C. Conser, associate professor of physiology at the University of Maryland.

DR. JOHN CHARLES FIELD, head of the department of mathematics at the University of Toronto, died on August 10 at the age of seventy years.

GEORGE BARVOW, late of the British Geological Survey, died on July 24, at the age of seventy-eight years.

CAPTAIN POULETT WEATHERBY, of Bournemouth, England, geographer and African explorer, who discovered the source of the Congo, has died at the age of seventy-two years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Ludwig Haberlandt, professor of physiology at Innsbruck.

THE death is announced, at the age of sixty-three years, of Dr. Rudolf Kraus, of the State Serum Institute in Santiago de Chile.

JOHN R. F. SEBELIEN, formerly professor of chemistry in the Agricultural College, Aas, Norway, known for his contributions to the chemistry of milk and dairy feeding and artificial manures, has died at the age of seventy-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTERS IN PARIS

Nature reports that La Maison du Savant, which is to be built in Paris, will be a well-appointed meeting-place for French and foreign men of science, if the present plans come to fruition. Lecture rooms, a restaurant, a winter-garden, etc., will be at the disposal of members and visitors. In addition, it will possess an extensive office of information which will study projects for the erection of up-to-date laboratories and research institutions, and organize congresses, exhibitions, conferences and all publicity necessary to attain the organization's aims. An illustrated periodical will also be published eventually, to inform the public of the general progress of science. Other activities include a benevolent fund and the provision of scholarships. The Maison du Savant is under the patronage of M. Lebrun, President of the French Republic; it has received government support, and its honorary committee consists of a distinguished group of academicians, including MM. le Chatelier, Charcot, le duc de Broglie, Richet, etc. Its founder and president is M. Georges Lecuyer, president of the International Union of Decorative Arts, and its active director is M. Jean de Chappedelaine. The organization hopes to raise fifty million francs in the near future for its extensive program. Through the official support of the Chamber of Deputies and the Municipality of Paris, a beginning has been made with convenient office rooms at 5 Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris.

"La Maison Internationale de la Science" is a project put forward on the occasion of the Colonial Exhibition of last year, during an International Congress of Men of Science and Research Workers, for the furtherance of their interests. Its temporary headquarters are at the Institut Marey, Avenue Gordon-Bennett, Paris. It has not been very active, owing to the absence of its director, M. Pélissier, on a government mission to the island of Réunion; in all probability it will join forces with the Maison du Savant. "Le Foyer International Universitaire" is a center planned by the University of Paris. It was to be housed in part of the hôtel de la Rochefoucauld d'Estissac; this, however, has been bought by the "Maison de la Chimie" for three million francs, which will be used by the "Foyer International Universitaire" to acquire another building in rue de la Four (the former École de Bouffémont). "Le Cercle Universitaire International" is a club projected by the Associations of University Students to receive visiting colleagues and university men and to organize meet-

ings and lectures that will promote international friendship. Its president is M. Paul Langevin, and its temporary address is at the Musée Pédagogique, 41 rue Gay-Lussac, Paris.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

THE Second International Polar Year, which is to continue for 13 months, is now under way, since it began on August 1st, and while it is so new that reports have not yet arrived in this country to tell us which stations are actually at work and which are still making preparations, enough is known to assure that the undertaking will be a success.

A direct outcome of the appropriation by the last Congress of $30,000 for participation in the Second Polar Year program is the establishment of the so-called College-Fairbanks Polar Year Station in the interior of Alaska not far from the Arctic Circle and from the belt of maximum auroral frequency. Its position at the terminus of the Alaska Railroad has been particularly helpful in view of unavoidable delays in getting the project started. Furthermore, the active cooperation of Dr. Charles E. Bunnell, president of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, has been indispensable.

The College-Fairbanks station will be quite comparable in range of activity with any other Polar Year Station. The plans include magnetic, atmospheric electric, earth current, radio transmission and auroral observations and in the same vicinity there will be meteorological, including upper air, observations. The significance of simultaneous observations at a favorable point where little has heretofore been known can not be overemphasized. Heretofore there have only been four places where atmospheric electric and earth current observations have been going on at the same time. These include the Carnegie Institution of Washington observatories in Peru and Australia, the observatory at Ebro, Spain, and the Tucson Magnetic Observatory of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, where cooperation of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company have made possible such a program. However, at none of these have systematic radio observations been made. The Coast and Geodetic Survey has had occasion to observe the demand on the part of the students of radio transmission for magnetic information, since it has been obliged to furnish, long in advance of compilation of the results, copies of the magnetograms or lists of daily ranges of the magnetic elements from several of its observatories to investigators of radio transmission, including government scientific bureaus, scientific organizations and wire, cable and broadcasting companies.

The station is the result of the cooperative activity of a number of organizations which probably would not have been forthcoming unless Congress had taken the action that it did. These include the State Department, to whom the appropriation was made, the Department of Commerce through the Bureau of Standards in addition to the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Navy Department through the Naval Research Laboratory, the War Department through the Signal Corps, the Interior Department through furnishing special facilities in Alaska and valuable information, the Carnegie Institution of Washington through its Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines and private individuals.

The station is in the administrative charge of the senior representative of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. F. P. Ulrich, who on his regular duty is in charge of the Sitka Magnetic and Seismological Observatory, is erecting the buildings and installing the instruments. As soon as practicable he will be relieved by Mr. Everett R. Johnson and will then return to Sitka. Mr. H. F. Bennett will be the assistant magnetic observer. The Naval Research Laboratory will have Dr. H. B. Maris, associate physicist, and Mr. C. E. Johnson, radio man first class, U. S. N. The Carnegie Institution will have Messrs. W. J. Rooney and K. H. Sherman, who are expert in atmospheric electric and earth current work. The 5-year plan of auroral work which was made possible through a grant by the Rockefeller Foundation and which is being carried on by Professor V. R. Fuller and other personnel of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines will continue throughout the Polar Year. The regular personnel of the Weather Bureau will carry on the meteorological work.

The activities in other countries are numerous, and 33 nations are taking part. The Polar Year Commission, of which Mr. John A. Fleming, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. N. H. Heck, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, are the American members, will undoubtedly be ready in the near future to issue a statement as to the progress being made by the different countries.

The plan for the Polar Year program was a spontaneous outcome of the success of the First Polar Year fifty years ago. While the working out of plans has been carried on in many different countries the work as a whole has been fostered by the Second Polar Year Commission. This was organized in 1929 and placed under the direction of Dr. D. La Cour, of Denmark, and the successful world-wide outcome under difficult conditions is to be credited largely to his initiative. The Polar Year for the Antarctic and other parts of the Southern Hemisphere which are