the Wagner Institute he proceeded to develop in the museum an excellent local natural history collection and also a detailed synoptic collection of the animal world. At the same time he was able to broaden and increase his interest in the Diptera, so that he soon became one of America's authorities on that group of insects. Recent mollusks also occupied his attention, and these with the Diptera remained his major fields of investigation. For a number of years during his Philadelphia residence he was also actively at work on fossil mollusks, and in charge of the Isaac Lea Collection of Eocene Mollusca at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. In the development of this collection he visited the Eocene deposits of the southern United States a number of times. In 1891, accompanied by William J. Fox, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Johnson visited Jamaica, and made extensive collections of the insects and mollusks of that island, his important study of the Diptera of the island being based on these investigations.

With Henry A. Pilsbry in 1890, Johnson assumed the management of the *Nautilus,* associate editor and business manager of which he remained until his death. In 1897 he married Miss Carrie W. Ford, a daughter of John Ford, one of Philadelphia's group of conchologists.

The post of curator of the Boston Society of Natural History being vacant, in 1903 he was appointed to that office, and in the conversion of the Boston Society's museum into a strictly New England one, the succeeding years witnessed the application of his unusual ability to adapt, rearrange and develop museum collections under conditions of limited financial support. This is a rarely met capability, little appreciated by those with lavish funds and many assistants. How much personal labor the years in Philadelphia and the early ones in Boston required is known only to those intimately associated. My personal contact with C. W. Johnson was during most of the Philadelphia period, and it was during these busy years, filled for him with duties of many kinds, that his encouragement of boyish enthusiasm, and the tolerance and patience of our revered teacher and guide, laid the foundations for entomological careers in three of his volunteer youngster helpers.

While on a short collecting trip to his favorite locality, Martha's Vineyard, he was seriously stricken, and died in Boston on July 19, 1932. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Johnson was also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Entomological Society of America, to the presidency of which latter he was elected in 1924. In addition to membership in a number of other scientific organizations, he was a member of the Malacological Society of London and of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

Johnson's studies in the Diptera were productive of numerous original contributions, while his generous aid to fellow students placed at their disposal in special studies the collections secured on his innumerable field trips in the Philadelphia district and in New England. The number of beginners who drew their early encouragement from this born naturalist will never be known, but the memories of his personal magnetism, ever-youthful enthusiasm and kindly help will remain cherished possessions of many now seasoned scientists.

JAMES A. G. REHN
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA

RECENT DEATHS

DR. OLIVER DIMON KELLOGG, professor of mathematics at Harvard University, died suddenly when climbing a mountain near Greenville, Maine, on August 27. Dr. Kellogg was fifty-four years old.

DR. MOSES ALLEN STARR, professor emeritus of neurology at Columbia University, died on September 4. He was seventy-eight years old.

PROFESSOR EDGAR JAMES SWIFT, head of the department of psychology at Washington University, St. Louis, since 1925, died on August 30, at the age of seventy-two years.

JAMES E. DONAHUE, associate professor of mathematics in the University of Vermont, died suddenly on August 13, at the age of fifty-two years.

DR. NATHANIEL ALLISON, formerly professor of surgery in charge of the division of orthopedic surgery at the University of Chicago, died on August 25, at the age of fifty-six years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Adolf Sauer, professor of mineralogy and geology at the University of Stuttgart; of Dr. Otto Mügge, professor of mineralogy at Göttingen, and of Dr. Albert von Ettingshausen, professor of physics at Graz.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BRITISH VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1930

THE Registrar-General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for 1930, the last of the three volumes for that year, is summarized in the *British Medical Journal.* It contains the official commentary on the vital statistics in Part I Medical Tables and

Part II Civil Tables already issued. There are special sections on deaths, marriages, births, stillbirths, estimated population, vital statistics for Great Britain and Ireland, Legitimacy Act (re-registrations), Adoption of Children Act (registration) and electors (Parliamentary and Local Government). The population at the middle of the year was estimated at 39,806,000 persons. This estimate was largely confirmed by the result of the census in April of the following year, the provisional figure of the census at that later date being 39,947,931. The estimated figure of 39,806,000 was made up of 19,075,000 males and 20,731,000 females. This excess in the number of females is not distributed evenly over the various ages, being most marked in the age groups between 30 and 55. The birth rate was 16.3, thus equalling the rate for the previous year, which was the lowest recorded in this country since the establishment of civil registration. The marriage rate was 15.8 persons married per 1,000 of the population, remaining the same as for the previous year, which was the highest recorded since 1921. The death rate was 11.4, compared with 13.4 for 1929, which had a high rate, owing to the severe weather of the spring period. The rate of 11.4 was the lowest death rate on record. The death rate under 1 year of age was 60 per 1,000 live births, which is the lowest figure recorded, and 5 per 1,000 below the previous record of 65 for 1928. The rate for deaths of mothers from childbirth for 1930 was 4.40 per 1,000 live births against 4.33 for the previous year. The higher figure is owing to a rise in the rate for puerperal sepsis, the figure for "other puerperal causes" showing a slight decrease. It is suggested that this may be associated with the lower birth rate, giving a greater proportion of cases of first-born children, with its consequent slight increase of risk, thus masking any reduction achieved as a result of maternal welfare schemes. The deaths ascribed to cancer during 1930 numbered 57,883 (26,916 males and 30,967 females). These numbers are the highest yet recorded, but when standardized, the rates are 103 for males and 99 for females per 100,000 living, compared with 103 and 100, respectively, for the preceding year. The death rate for diabetes for each sex is slightly lower than in 1929, but, except for 1929, is higher than for several years past. Following on an examination of the figures in the 1924 volume for "crushing by motor vehicles," statistics are given of the differences in 1930, which was the last year before the new Road Traffic Act (1930) came into force. The rate of mortality was more than twice that for 1924, and almost eight times the rate for 1911. Tables which relate to the six years 1925–30 exhibit the increasing mortality especially associated with motor-cycle accidents, and give the number of deaths, with the age groups of the persons, and the types of motor vehicles concerned.

DR. SVEN HEDIN'S EXPEDITION IN CENTRAL ASIA

DR. SVEN HEDIN'S expedition in Central Asia, according to the London *Times,* which quotes from the *Academia,* Berlin, is now working in several separate parties. One section, to which the Swedish explorers, Dr. Nils Ambolt and Dr. Erik Norin, are attached, early this year undertook a journey through northwestern Tibet, hoping to penetrate and chart an entirely unexplored territory. Dr. Norin has now sent to Dr. Sven Hedin in Berlin a wireless message *via* Peshawar as follows:

> In April I traveled over the Karatagh Pass and Aksai Chin to the Karakorums. At the beginning of May, according to program, I met Dr. Ambolt and the main convoy. On May 9 I left the convoy again, and with my own separate convoy continued in a northeasterly direction, touching at Camps 15 and 20 established by you in 1907. From your Camp No. 34 we moved into unknown territory and reached Ustuntagh after a difficult trek. In that region I lost my whole convoy, but was able to save the scientific records of our journey. I myself am in good health and all my people are alive.

Dr. Hedin comments on this journey as follows:

> I knew that Dr. Norin was planning to reach the Karakorums by way of the Karatagh, and that he had taken a small convoy to Aksai Chin. He and Dr. Ambolt wanted to discover as much unknown land as possible. Evidently the journey through my 1907 camps to the north served the purpose of gaining geological data from the whole Kun-Lun mountain range. It is clear that the convoy was lost in this unknown territory, probably during a very difficult trek. Dr. Norin has lost all his animals, and saved only himself, his porters and his scientific notes. He has asked for support and for his mail to be sent to the Swedish Mission at Kashgar, and seems to have formed new plans for the exact geological examination of Northern Tibet.

A report received by Dr. Sven Hedin from the other expedition working in this region, under Dr. Ambolt, states that he had moved eastwards from Lighten Lake, in Northwest Tibet, in the direction of Termilik, and had crossed and mapped the hitherto unknown Kun-Lun area. Termilik lies south of the Lop-nor, the mysterious lake which the Sven Hedin Expedition of last year revisited. Dr. Ambolt proposes to cross the great belt to the Central Asian Desert. This second expedition is expected to arrive in Peking at the end of November.