

Washington Academy of Sciences, Biological Society of Washington and the American Society of Mammalogists.

JAMES LEE PETERS

### RECENT DEATHS

JOHN RIPLEY FREEMAN, consulting hydraulic engineer, of Providence, Rhode Island, died on October 6, aged seventy-seven years. Dr. Freeman was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and had been president of the American Societies of Civil and Mechanical Engineers.

ROBERT LEE FARIS, hydrographer and geodetic engineer, assistant director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, died on October 5 at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. CYPRIEN O'DILLON MAILLOUX, of New York, consulting engineer, formerly editor of the *Electrical World*, died on October 5 at the age of seventy-one years. Dr. Mailloux had been president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

MONROE BENJAMIN SNYDER, who had served for many years on the faculty of Central High School, Philadelphia, and later had been engaged at the Franklin Institute in scientific research in physics,

chemistry and astronomy, died on September 27. He was in his eighty-fifth year.

ADOLPH LOMB, vice-president of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company and a son of the late Henry Lomb, cofounder of the firm, died on September 30. He was sixty-six years old.

MRS. MARCIA WOODARD ATWATER, widow of Professor W. O. Atwater, formerly professor of chemistry at Wesleyan University and head of the nutrition investigations of the United States Department of Agriculture, died on September 24 in Middletown, Connecticut, at the age of eighty-one years. She is survived by her daughter, Helen Woodard Atwater, editor of the *Journal of Home Economics*, and her son, Charles Woodard Atwater, of the law firm of Atwater and Clarke, New York City.

THE death is announced of Dr. William Stirling, Fullerian professor of physiology at the Royal Institution, London, at the age of eighty-one years. Dr. Stirling was formerly professor of physiology at Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR MAX WOLF, director of the Königsstuhl Observatory at Heidelberg, died on October 3. He was sixty-nine years old.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### AMALGAMATION OF THE BRITISH PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL SOCIETIES

A PLAN for the amalgamation of the Physical Society of London and the Optical Society has been drawn up and unanimously recommended by a committee representative of the two societies. The combined societies will be named the Physical Society.

*Nature* says that it must be understood that the scheme is, as it states, an amalgamation—a fusion of the societies concerned. "In making a balanced estimate of the advantages accruing from such a fusion, it must be remembered that the circumstances in which the Optical Society was founded are scarcely germane to the present situation. However specialized its aims may have been in the earliest years of its existence, the Optical Society, as a glance at its *Transactions* will show, has developed into a general scientific body with an outlook scarcely to be distinguished from that of the Physical Society of London."

The article in *Nature* continues:

In some quarters a fear has been expressed that the fusion of the two societies will leave workers in applied optics without a forum in which to express their views. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Optical science is no longer confined to a narrow sphere of influence but has become the handmaid of all sciences, and optical

instruments are now tools of industry. The amalgamation now completed is a visible sign of the union, to their mutual benefit, of the most representative body of producers of optical methods and instruments with the body which represents the largest and most important group of users of such methods and instruments. Under the auspices of the new Physical Society, the Guthrie lecture and the Thomas Young oration will be delivered as heretofore; papers on optical subjects have been a prominent feature in the *Proceedings of the Physical Society of London*, and their number will be materially increased under the new régime; arrangements for special lectures on topics of optical interest have been made, and the session now opening will be inaugurated by a lecture by Dr. J. W. French on "The Manufacture of Optical Glass"; and the probability of an increased output of papers is provided for by an increase of one part per annum in the number of published parts of the *Proceedings*.

### THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHEMISTS

At the Denver meeting of the American Chemical Society, the following statement was adopted as the sense of the council:

As it became manifest that the United States was involved in an economic depression which since has left no country untouched, the American Chemical Society increased its efforts on behalf of chemists not only in the