

Wheat varieties vary more or less markedly as to the amount of an element required per unit weight of grain produced. Furthermore, the ash content of their straws varies with the elements absorbed. Subtracting the amount of nutrients required for any measure of yield of any variety from that of its ash,

one obtains a measure of the quantity of material which caused secular variation in the plant sap. Better bread was obtained from wheats having a relatively large excess of salts in the straw beyond the minimum required for the yield obtained than from those having none or only a small excess.

## OBITUARY

### RECENT DEATHS

CHARLES WILFORD COOK, professor of economic geology at the University of Michigan, died on February 17 at the age of fifty years. He had been connected with the department of geology for twenty-five years and was well known for his work in economic, and especially in oil, geology.

DR. CHARLES SPENCER WILLIAMSON, head of the department of internal medicine of the University of Illinois Medical College, Chicago, died on February 15 at the age of sixty years.

*Nature* reports the death of Lieutenant Colonel

John Stephenson, known especially for his work on the oligochaetes, from 1912 to 1920 professor of biology and principal of the government college at Lahore, India, and later until 1929 lecturer in zoology at the University of Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR ALFRED SCHAARSCHMIDT, head of the Institute of Chemical Technology at the Technische Hochschule, Charlottenburg, has died at the age of forty-nine years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Johannes Schmidt, the biologist and oceanographer of Copenhagen.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF ROSARIO

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the board of directors of the School of Medicine of Rosario, Buenos Aires, recently resigned because the directors have had some difficulties with the students. The new board of directors has expressed a wish to nullify many of the regulations made by the previous boards for the management of the school. The School of Medicine of Rosario is dependent on the University of Litoral. The university controls seven medical schools and also other scientific centers. One of those centers, the Escuela de Agronomía y Veterinaria of the province of Corrientes, has more teachers than students. As a result of the economic conditions, the government recently reduced the yearly allowance of the University of Litoral, which in turn reduced the allowances given to the medical schools and scientific centers under its control. The medical school of Rosario could have met this deficit by reducing some of its expenses. There are, for instance, three courses on the same subject (psychiatry); many other subjects which are not strictly of a university nature could have been discontinued. However, in order to economize, the salaries of the professors were reduced. Drs. Ruíz and Hug, directors of the institutes of anatomy and of pharmacology of the medical school of Rosario, whose contracts expired, refused to sign a new contract at a reduced salary. Then the board of directors decided to eliminate the course of phar-

macology. However, the students and some professors opposed dropping the course and finally they decided to continue it. The vacancies left by Drs. Ruíz and Hug were reported so that applications for the positions could be made. The monthly salary to be given professors in those positions is 500 pesos (\$130) as directors of the institution and 300 pesos (\$78) as professors, making a total of 800 pesos (\$280) a month. However, this amount is more theoretical than real, because, owing to taxes, the salary is reduced to 700 pesos (\$182). The full time professors of the medical school of Rosario had 1,300 and 1,500 pesos (\$338 and \$390), respectively, for their monthly salary. By giving them only 700 pesos the school saves 1,500 pesos a month, although the full-time system is sacrificed. Those full-time professors have devoted the past ten or fifteen years to laboratory research and now they are compelled to practice medicine or do other things for a living, while their places are taken by others who have not had so much experience. There were five full-time professors in the medical schools of Argentina. By the elimination of these two there are now only three (Drs. Houssay, Lewis and Elizalde).

### AUSTRALIAN FOSSILS FOR THE HARVARD MUSEUM

THE largest and most complete specimen of a plesiosaur ever discovered in Australia is included in the collections made by William E. Schevill, assistant