

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

curator at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Mr. Schevill returned in December from an 18-months expedition to Australia, and a preliminary investigation of his findings is now in progress.

The most important discovery, it is believed, is the skeleton of the plesiosaur. It is about two thirds complete, making possible for the first time an accurate reconstruction. Previous finds in Australia have been only fragments. The Harvard specimen is now being prepared for mounting, although it will be some months before it is ready for display.

The remains of various species of *Plesiosaurus* have been found previously in Europe and America, and the present finding of a more complete example of the Australian plesiosaur will make possible important comparisons. The Australian specimen is known as "*Kronosaurus queenslandicus*."

Previous specimens have been found in England, Germany, the United States—New Jersey, Kansas and Wyoming. In some American examples, stones of various sizes, from a quarter of an inch to 4 inches in diameter, were found in the position of the stomach, and are supposed to have been swallowed as aids to digestion. The fossil remains at Harvard are being carefully studied for evidence of similar feeding habits among the Australian species.

Mr. Schevill's find was located on the ranch of R. W. H. Thomas, near Richmond in northwestern Queensland, which was a submerged area during the Cretaceous period. In addition to this skeleton, he has brought back a large number of specimens, including not only fossils but also a series of present-day animals. The entire shipment was made in 95 cases, weighing in all eight tons.

The Australian collection has been made as part of the museum's program of obtaining field specimens from every section of the world. Many of these will be arranged in "systematic collections," showing graphically the history of evolution. The exhibition collections are used as a supplement to text-books by Harvard University students in courses on zoology and paleontology.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOULDER DAM PROJECT AREA

THE Secretary of the Interior, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, on February 15 approved the bills for administration of the Boulder Canyon Project area, introduced by Senator Hayden, of Arizona, and Congressman Arentz, of Nevada. The Secretary says:

Hoover Dam is now under construction and storage of the waters of the Colorado River in the immense reservoir to be created thereby will begin, probably, early in 1935.

This largest artificial reservoir in the world possesses

great recreational and educational possibilities which should be conserved. The bill provides for the efficient and economical accomplishment of the purpose by entrusting this responsibility to the National Park Service, while the Bureau of Reclamation administers the area so far as it has to do with the primary purposes of the original legislation. In this way the building up of duplicating organizations is avoided.

The bill also determines the limits essential to the project and definitely establishes the reservations. It vacates withdrawals heretofore made and restores about 1,400,000 acres to entry.

No claim of exclusive federal jurisdiction is made as to the new reservation and Secretary Wilbur announces that none will be. Accordingly, the laws of Nevada and Arizona, including those as to schools, taxation and elections, will not be disturbed in the new reservation set up by the bill.

As to the smaller federal reservation, heretofore established by order of Secretary Wilbur, at Boulder City, the bill proposes that Nevada shall have full rights of taxation therein after construction of the dam is completed; that Nevada shall immediately have the right, in the Boulder City area, to collect a property tax for school purposes and a mining tax, and to conduct schools.

The Secretary states the department does not propose to submit any estimates of appropriations during the fiscal years 1933 and 1934 for recreational development.

Secretary Wilbur considers the bill very important and urges its enactment at this session of Congress. He says of it:

The bill replaces uncertainty with certainty, solves numerous existing administrative difficulties, makes possible orderly planning for the future and provides fully for the interests of the United States and of adjacent communities as to the development and use of this highly important area.

NEW PHARMACOPOEIAL VITAMIN ADVISORY BOARD

THE Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopoeia has announced the appointment of a Pharmacopoeial Vitamin Advisory Board consisting of

- Dr. Lafayette B. Mendel, Yale University.
- Dr. H. C. Sherman, Columbia University.
- Dr. E. M. Nelson, Protein and Nutrition Division, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- E. F. Kelly, Baltimore, Maryland, representing the United States Pharmacopoeia Board of Trustees.
- E. Fullerton Cook, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, representing the United States Pharmacopoeia Committee of Revision.