

without issue. He is survived by a brother, James Belling, of Cornwall, England.

CHARLES B. DAVENPORT

RECENT DEATHS

EDWARD BRUCE WILLIAMSON, research associate in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, died on February 28, at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. H. GREGG SMITH, associate in biochemistry at

the State University of Iowa, died on February 26. He was thirty-four years old.

NATURE reports the deaths of Professor Johan van Baren, an authority on soil mineralogy, professor of geology and mineralogy in the Agricultural University of Wageningen, Holland, on February 7, aged fifty-seven years, and of Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. G. Kunhardt, formerly of the Indian Medical Service, who did valuable work on plague prevention in India and also in the advancement of the rubber industry, at the age of fifty-seven years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF PARIS

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, having often complained of its cramped quarters, which in view of the constantly increasing number of students have become inadequate, received from the Rockefeller Foundation the offer of a gift of \$6,000,000 for new buildings for the faculty of medicine, on condition that the French government furnish an equal sum. It was impossible to erect the new buildings on the present site along the Boulevard St. Germain, in the center of Paris, where real estate commands an enormous price. When a different site was sought, consideration was given to the site occupied by the Halle-aux-vins, on the bank of the Seine farther to the east. The Halle-aux-vins in that case would have been moved outside the city. The wine merchants refused to move. Attention was then given to a large unoccupied area south of the city, which was being used for a military aviation school. The suggestion of this site brought protests from the professors, students, medical libraries and the dealers in surgical instruments that had been grouped for centuries about the present buildings. This site was several miles away from the principal teaching hospitals. Attention was then given to a tract occupied by the Ste. Anne psychopathic hospital, located to the south in the vicinity of the University City. It was not long before protests were heard. Professors think the location is still too remote, and their opinion is shared by the merchants. Furthermore, it would be necessary to rebuild a much larger psychopathic hospital elsewhere; for it is now inadequate, owing to the increasing number of insane persons. The council of the faculty of medicine, according to the correspondent, is placed in an embarrassing position by the gift of the Rockefeller Foundation, especially in view of the state of the French treasury. The present buildings of the faculty of medicine are only fifty years old, and it would suffice to add further stories or erect annexes. In short, the council appears dis-

posed to postpone until more propitious times the realization of the generous proposal of the great American philanthropist. Attention has been called also to the fact that the magnificent university buildings erected with the same aid but located too far from the center of the city are already revealing grave disadvantages by reason of their remoteness. The students are attending their lectures less regularly on account of the time required to go to and fro.

REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL UNITS

THE Bureau of Standards reports that the third biennial meeting of the advisory committee on electricity and photometry established by the International Committee on Weights and Measures opened on January 31 at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, at Sevres, near Paris.

The international committee has undertaken to revise the present international electrical units. It proposes to base the units directly upon absolute measurements in the electromagnetic centimeter-gram-second system, instead of defining them by means of the mercury-ohm tube and the silver voltmeter. Redeterminations of the ohm and ampère by absolute measurements are in progress in several national standardizing laboratories, including the Bureau of Standards; at the meeting at which the bureau was represented by E. C. Crittenden, chief of the Electrical Division, plans were made for comparing the results found in different countries and for furnishing to all countries standards based upon the combined results.

The international committee likewise hopes to establish uniform units and standards throughout the world for the measurement of light. In this attempt it is collaborating with the International Commission on Illumination. A special committee on units and standards appointed by the latter commission, and consisting of representatives of France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States, met in Paris on January 30 to prepare recom-