tainty that their best work would be done under such conditions as these laboratories provide. I believe, however, that the men so easily classified are relatively few, and that for a large majority the choice will be determined by the accident of opportunity, rather than by aptitude. For some of this majority, I suspect that the best conditions for the full development and maintenance of their powers of serving science might be provided by a successive or an alternating experience of the conditions of academic and of industrial research. The investigator who has been digging himself to a standstill in an academic groove, might find a new mobility in the less conventional surroundings of an industrial laboratory; while his colleague, whose inventive energies have grown stale from too long contact with a variety of practical problems, might find them refreshed and renewed by migrating for a period to the calmer atmosphere of fundamental research. I believe, then, that a freer interchange of suitable personnel, if it were possible, between the academic laboratories and those supported by industry, might have an invigorating influence on both; but I speak of ideals, without knowledge of practical possibilities. I am sure that even a short experience of the kind of opportunity that these laboratories will afford would make some of your academic colleagues envy the elasticity of organization, the adaptability of equipment and readiness of expansion to a large scale of working which the industrial association can give.

There are several advantages which you will have here over some institutions supported by memorial endowments. I am sure that this country must have had examples of a type of large-hearted testator or pious founder, familiar to us in England. He rightly believes that he can create the most worthy memorial to himself or to those dear to him by the endowment of medical research; but too often he wrongly believes that his generous impulse brings with it a scientific vision and a prophetic wisdom, entitling him to restrict, for all time, the application of his benefaction to research on some particular problem in medicine, which has enlisted his personal sympathies or stimulated his imagination. You who work here will be free to choose your problems, according to the needs of the time and the promise of advance offered by current progress in science; you will be able to give intensive cultivation to the fertile areas, to raise the crops which are likely to give good yield and put in the sickle where the harvest stands ripe for gathering. You will have the great advantage that your buildings can be designed and equipped, with the sole aim of making the most efficient provision for the work which you have in hand or in near prospect. You begin with an equipment perfect for your present needs, and will be able to expand it as your program and your staff expand. I can hardly resist a feeling of envy at the opportunity which Dr. Major, Dr. Molitor, Dr. Engels and their coworkers will have, to concentrate their thoughts on their researches, without distraction by duties of administration or teaching, in laboratories designed so admirably for the needs of research and so readily adaptable to changing requirements.

Whole-time research, however, whether in an endowed or an industrial laboratory, has its own special anxieties and psychological needs. Research workers in an institution such as this can only give of their best, if they can escape from any feeling of isolation from the general scientific community, and can feel an assurance that their work is making an essential contribution to the general advance of medical science and practise. They will need, and I am confident that they will have, all the encouragement and friendly cooperation which their scientific colleagues in the academic laboratories and the clinical centers can give them. We wish them all success, and we congratulate the president, Mr. Merck, and all who have been associated with him, on an enterprise which we now launch, with high hopes, on a career of service to science and to the industry which supports it.

OBITUARY

FRED E. BROOKS

FRED E. BROOKS, associate entomologist of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and nationally known writer on nature subjects, died at French Creek, West Virginia, on March 9. He had been in ill health for several years and the immediate cause of his death was a heart attack. Mr. Brooks' first scientific work was done as associate entomologist of the West Virginia Experiment Station, where he did notable research work with insects affecting grapes. For some time he also worked with small mammals. In 1911 he became associated with the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, where his main work was with wood-boring insects, especially those working on apple. He also conducted research with codling moth, the grape curculio and several nut insects. Most of his research work is published in bulletins of the West Virginia Experiment Station and of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to entomology he was keenly interested in nature generally and published many papers covering his observations in journals such as *Nature, Country Life in America, The Rural New*

Yorker and many others. As an observer he was without a peer and it was in this way that he made his most notable scientific contributions.

C. R. CUTRIGHT

MEMORIALS

THE memory of John Kern Strecker, curator of the Baylor University Museum, was honored at Waco, Texas, on April 20, in a special service arranged by the Texas Academy of Science and participated in by the entire university. Eulogies were presented by H. B. Parks, of San Antonio, formerly state entomologist and secretary of the academy, and by Dr. Walter J. Williams, professor of mathematics, who was intimately associated with Mr. Strecker. The complete works of Mr. Strecker, assembled by the academy and bound in leather, were presented to the Baylor University Library. Included were ninety-three contributions on mollusks, reptiles, birds and mammals. About twenty papers were incomplete at the time of his death. These will be brought to completion by Dr. Williams and published as soon as possible. Mr. Strecker's death occurred at Waco on January 9.

A JAMES WATT MEMORIAL INSTITUTE was declared open at Birmingham, England, on May 15, by Mr. Alan Chorlton, M.P., president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The premises are a wing of the recently erected York House and include a lecture hall, a library and a committee room. When in 1919 Birmingham celebrated the centenary of James Watt a fund was raised which, after paying the commemoration expenses and the cost of a memorial volume, enabled the trustees to set aside £5,000 for a research scholarship in mechanical engineering in Birmingham University. A sum of £6,000 remained. Sir Gilbert Barling, chairman of the trustees, explained that originally it was hoped to endow a chair of mechanical engineering at the university, which would have required £20,000. Eventually they visualized the erection of a fine building as a memorial home for the various engineering societies in Birmingham. Unfortunately the amount subscribed was very much less than was contemplated. Hence the position had to be reconsidered. Their £6,000 had now grown to £10,000, and as at least £40,000 was needed to erect an appropriate building the trustees decided to proceed in a small way with a view to future development. As a home for engineering societies the purpose of the institute would be educational and scientific. To run it in a fruitful manner they needed about £800 a year, and they were already assured of nearly £700.

Nature reports that shortly after the death of Professor John Henry Poynting in 1914 a fund was subscribed by his friends with the object of providing a memorial to him. Part of the money thus raised was used for the publication by the Cambridge University Press of a volume of his "Collected Scientific Papers," of which a copy was presented to every university in the British Empire and to representative universities in foreign countries. Another part of the fund was used for the purchase of a portrait to be presented to the University of Birmingham and hung in the great hall of the university. The remainder, which was invested, together with the accrued interest, has been offered to, and accepted by, the council of the university, for the foundation of a Poynting lecture, to be delivered at intervals of not more than two years by physicists of outstanding distinction.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. WILLIAM T. COUNCILMAN, Shattuck professor of pathology at the Harvard Medical School until his retirement with the title of professor emeritus in 1922, died on May 27, in his seventy-ninth year.

DR. JOHN CHALMERS DA COSTA, for more than forty years connected with the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, filling the Samuel D. Gross chair of surgery since 1900, died on May 16, at the age of seventy years.

Nature reports the death of John Mackereth, a deputy conservator in the Indian Forest Service, on May 5, aged thirty-four years, and of J. T. J. Morrison, emeritus professor of forensic medicine and toxicology in the University of Birmingham, on May 10, aged seventy-six years.

THE recent death of Dr. Halfdan Bryn, Trondheim, is announced at the age of sixty-nine years. A correspondent writes: "With him Norway has lost its greatest anthropologist. Bryn was for some years president of the Norwegian Medical Association and was a member of the Consultative Eugenics Commission of Norway."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SCIENTIFIC SITUATION IN GERMANY

A WIRELESS to *The New York Times* from Berlin reports that the Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of the Sciences, the foremost scientific organization in Germany, which conducts thirty-two research institutes, held its twenty-second annual meeting here on May 23. It was presided over by Professor Max Planck, who said that nowadays no