

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 or-

ganization 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