

*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.

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### 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

one in Germany could be permitted to stand aside, "rifle at rest." He declared that there was only one watchword—"the consolidation of all available forces for the reconstruction of the fatherland." He read the following message sent by the society to Chancellor Hitler: "The Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of the Sciences begs leave to tender reverential greetings to the chancellor and its solemn pledge that German science is also ready to cooperate joyously in the reconstruction of the new national state."

Dr. Wilhelm Frick, Minister of the Interior, told the scientists what the state expected from them if it was to look after them. "It is the nature of scientific thought and research so to engross man as to expose him to the danger not only of becoming severed from the greater whole but actually losing his sense of duty—forgetting that he must serve the community," he declared. "With all respect for the freedom of science, let us postulate that service to science must be service to the nation and that scientific achievements are worthless when they can not be utilized for the culture of the people."

No more scientists of Jewish extraction have been eliminated from the Kaiser Wilhelm Society's institutes, and among the elective members of its governing board three persons of the Jewish faith were re-elected.

The investiture of Professor Ernst Krieck with the rectorship of the University of Frankfurt, which was renamed Goethe University last year, took place on May 23. The new rector said that in recent years the universities had lost a central idea, had become side-tracked and "never could have struggled from their paralysis but for the folk renaissance. The chief characteristic of this rebirth is the replacement of the humanistic ideal by the national and political. Nowadays the task of the universities is not to cultivate objective science but soldierlike, militant science, and their foremost task is to form the will and character of their students."

A correspondent writes from Holland: "The declaration against Einstein, published by the Prussian Academy of Sciences, was not decided upon at a session of the academy. Tactical motives may have caused the subsequent recognition of the declaration by the academy. The first declaration was signed by the presiding secretary, Heymann, alone. He is, along with the orientalist, Lüders, permanent secretary of the Philosophical-Historical Division. The second declaration was signed by Heymann and Von Ficker. Von Ficker is one of the permanent secretaries of the Mathematical-Physical Division. The other permanent secretary is Max Planck, who was in southern Italy at the time of the declarations."

## IN HONOR OF THE LATE STEPHEN TYNG MATHER

A MONUMENT, erected in honor of Stephen Tyng Mather, first director of the National Park Service, was unveiled by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, on May 27, at Bear Mountain, New York, at dedication ceremonies on the occasion of the meeting of the National Conference on State Parks, which was held from May 23 to 26. Mr. Mather's widow, a resident of Darien, Connecticut, and his daughter, Mrs. Edward McPherson, of Ithaca, were present at the ceremonies.

Mrs. Roosevelt, before drawing aside the red, white and blue curtain which veiled the plaque, remarked briefly that it was "a joy to have Mr. Mather's work recognized and commemorated." The plaque is a bronze tablet set in the face of a mammoth boulder. Designed by Bryant Baker, it bears Mr. Mather's profile against a background suggestion of mountains and trees, with the dates of his life span, July 4, 1867, to January 22, 1930. Its inscription reads: "He laid the foundation of the National Park Service, defining and establishing the policies under which its areas shall be developed and conserved unimpaired for future generations. There will never come an end to the good that he has done."

The Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, who flew from Washington for the dedication, said that Mr. Mather's record of achievement was

as far flung and enduring as the great national parks whose true mission in our national life he first conceived and expressed.

Stephen Mather was a fortunate dreamer of dreams who had the rare chance to follow his dreams and to make them come true. Before he came into our national park system, a park was just a park, an interesting or beautiful expanse of woods and lakes and mountains, without intimate connection with the lives of the people. He conceived the theory that our parks should be made the means of preserving the health and maintaining the morale of the American people.

To do what he did it was necessary not only that he love the mountains and forests and all the beautiful handiwork of nature, it was equally necessary that he should truly love just people. And it is hard to say whether he loved nature more than people or people more than nature. It is probably well within the truth to say that he loved both of them equally and that when he had them in conjunction he loved them both supremely.

It is keeping well within the bounds of truth to say that our great system of national parks and state parks providing, as they do, a means of out-door recreation unequaled in the history of the world, is largely due to the love of humanity and of nature that burned deep within the soul of Stephen T. Mather. He knew all the national parks intimately. He knew every employee in the service. They loved him and knew him as their friend and their affection and loyalty he returned in full measure. To the