been of value to the medical profession. Our studies of the effect of x-rays on plants may yet be of assistance in horticulture or agriculture.

It is true that the field of interest of the General Electric Company is so broad that the chance that a new fact will find application in that field is good, and our company for that reason is more likely to benefit directly from research in pure science than would a company occupying a narrower field. But that is only a matter of degree, and, to my mind, detracts not at all from the credit due to the vision that foresaw the potential value of broad industrial research and to the courage that assumed the risks of pioneering.

While our laboratory, as I have said, was organized definitely for the purpose of industrial research and has always been known as the Research Laboratory of the company, it has had, by no means, a monopoly of the research work of the company. Important and fruitful researches have been conducted in the Thomson Laboratory at Lynn and in several of our so-called works laboratories, as well as in the lamp laboratories at Cleveland and the General Engineering Laboratory at Schenectady. Therefore, in speaking of the company's research, the contributions of all these laboratories must be included.

I have thus far spoken only of those company policies which have most directly concerned our laboratory, but I feel pride in our company on other grounds.

Mr. Owen D. Young has often spoken of the threefold obligation of a manufacturing corporation—to its customers, to its stockholders and to its employees —giving to its customers a product of high quality and reliability at a fair price; to its stockholders an adequate and assured return on their investments, and to its employes safe, pleasant and healthful working conditions, fair wages, assured employment and assistance in safeguarding themselves against the disabilities of injury, sickness and old age. I know of no company that has striven more earnestly than ours to fulfil those duties scrupulously. Other companies also have made a fine record in quality of product and in continuity of dividends, but in connection with the third duty—that of human relations—I feel that our company has again pioneered and deserves special credit. Under the leadership of Mr. Swope and Mr. Young, great effort has been made to improve working conditions, to pay as high wages as competition would permit, and to insure, as far as a single corporation could, continuity of employment. Equal effort has been made to provide (with assistance to self-help rather than through paternalism) relief against unemployment and retirement from either disability or old age, through unemployment relief and pension funds, built up by contributions from employe and company alike on a dollar for dollar basis. And employes have been encouraged and assisted to own their own homes and to make safe and profitable investments.

It is therefore both with a keen sense of the signal honor conferred, and with a reassuring conviction that the honor is fairly merited, that I gladly and gratefully accept, in behalf of the General Electric Company, this gracious award by the American Institute.

OBITUARY

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE THOMAS WILLIAM SALMON

A BAS-RELIEF portrait of the late Dr. Thomas William Salmon, first medical director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, was presented to the New York Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, by the Thomas William Salmon Memorial Committee on the afternoon of January 26.

The presentation was made by Dr. William L. Russell, professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical School, for the Salmon Memorial Committee, and the tablet was accepted by Dr. Frederick W. Parsons, commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene. Dr. William Darrach, dean emeritus of the Columbia University School of Medicine, delivered the memorial address. Dr. Clarence O. Cheney, director of the institute, presided. After the ceremony an informal tea was given at the institute in honor of Mrs. Salmon.

The tablet, executed by Charles Keck, of New York City, represents a figure of Dr. Salmon in profile, with the following inscription:

Professor of Psychiatry Columbia University 1921–1927
Beloved Physician Teacher Mental Hygiene Leader Whose Vision Guided the State and the University in Placing Here This Psychiatric Institute and Hospital

Dr. Salmon, who died on August 13, 1927, was professor of psychiatry in the Columbia School of Medicine and first proposed the cooperation of New York State with Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital in establishing a State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital as part of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. It is particularly in recognition of this service that the presentation of a memorial tablet to the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital is being made.

Following Dr. Salmon's death, his friends and former associates organized and incorporated the

Thomas William Salmon Memorial Committee to perpetuate his memory. This committee has raised a fund for providing annual lectures in psychiatry and to promote research in this field. The plans of the memorial call for a series of lectures to be delivered each year.

Dr. Adolph Meyer, professor of psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University, received the first award of the Salmon Memorial. His lectures on psychobiology, which were given in New York on April 8, 15 and 22, 1932, will shortly appear in book form. The lectures this year will be given at the New York Academy of Medicine on April 13, 20 and 27 by Dr. C. Macfie Campbell, professor of psychiatry in the Harvard Medical School.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. WARREN UPHAM, formerly of the U. S. Geological Survey, geologist and archeologist, died on January 29. He was eighty-three years old.

DR. WALTER JAMES HIGHMAN, specialist on diseases of the skin and dermatologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, died suddenly on January 24, at the age of fifty-four years.

SIR DONALD MACALISTER, chancellor and for many years principal of Glasgow University and president of the General Medical Council, died on January 8 at the age of seventy-nine years.

DR. FINLAY LORIMER KITCHIN, paleontologist to the Geological Survey of Great Britain, died on January 20 at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. WILLIAM EDWARD GIBBS, Ramsay professor of chemical engineering at University College, London, died on January 18 at the age of forty-four years.

DR. BENJAMIN A. BENSLEY, professor of zoology and head of the department of biology of the University of Toronto, died suddenly on January 20. He was fifty-eight years old.

DR. FRITZ HABER, professor of physical chemistry at the University of Berlin and director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for physical and electro chemistry, Nobel laureate in 1919, died suddenly on February 1, at the age of sixty-five years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

STRATOSPHERE FLIGHTS

TWO stratosphere ascents to the highest point to which it is practicable for a balloon to lift a man will be made in the United States during the coming summer, according to an announcement made jointly by the National Geographic Society and the U. S. Army Corps, sponsors of the project. The balloon, with a capacity of three million cubic feet, will be the largest ever constructed. It is estimated that it will rise to a height of more than fifteen miles above sea level.

The first ascent will be made in June by Captain Albert W. Stevens, aerial observer and photographer of the Army Air Corps, who conceived the project, and Major William Kepner, balloon expert. If this flight is successful, a second ascent will be made in September in order to check observations under similar conditions.

The flights will be known as the "National Geographic Society–Army Air Corps Stratosphere Flights." To advise in regard to the scientific plans and equipment, and to direct studies of the data collected, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, has formed a committee of scientific men. These include:

Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, *chairman*, director, U. S. Bureau of Standards; Dr. F. V. Coville, botanist, U. S. Department of Agriculture; General Oscar Westover, assistant chief, U. S. Army Air Corps; Captain R. S. Patton, director, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; Dr. W. F. G. Swann, Bartol Research Foundation, Swarthmore College; Dr. Floyd K. Richtmyer, Department of Physics, Cornell University, and member Research Council, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. Charles E. K. Mees, director, Research Laboratory, Eastman Kodak Company; Dr. Charles F. Marvin, chief, U. S. Weather Bureau, and Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, National Geographic Society.

The balloon to be used in the ascents will have a gas capacity five times that of the bag in which Commander Settle established his eleven and a half mile record last November; and nearly three and a half times that of the Soviet balloon which in September rose more than twelve miles above the earth.

The exact point at which the balloon will take to the air has not been selected, but it will probably be in the northern great plains region. Such a choice, it is pointed out, will give ample room for drift to the northeast, east, or southeast and a landing in open country, so that the bag can be salvaged.

In order to house the many instruments and automatic recording devices, the balloon will have attached to it a spherical gondola of light metal nine feet in diameter. Many of the instruments have been designed and modified by Captain Stevens as a result of trials during high altitude flights. They will be largely automatic, leaving observer and pilot free to take care of the many activities in the gondola that will require personal attention. A number of tiny cameras, using motion-picture film, will automatically "read" dials and clock faces simultaneously at frequent intervals.