OBITUARY

ROY LEE MOODIE

DR. ROY LEE MOODIE, anatomist and paleontologist, died on February 16 at the Hollywood Hospital, Los Angeles.

Dr. Moodie was born on July 30, 1880, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Receiving his early university training in the University of Kansas, his doctor's degree from the University of Chicago, he associated himself in his early life with the science faculties of leading midwestern colleges and universities, where he devoted his special talents to teaching and research. For many years he directed his interests to the study of the problems of paleopathology, a subject dealing with the ancient evidence of disease in man and animals, and a department of endeavor in which he stood preeminent.

Dr. Moodie came to Los Angeles in 1923 from the department of anatomy in the University of Illinois, where he had been associated for several years. In his work in paleontology he had become especially attracted by the exceptional opportunity presented by the Rancho La Brea Collection of Pleistocene Fossils in the Los Angeles Museum, with which institution he has been continuously connected, since his arrival in California as a research associate, serving under the patronage of the Wellcome Research Institution of London, England, as well as being connected, for a time, as professor of paleontology in the College of Dentistry of the University of Southern California.

A tireless and productive research student in a rare and difficult field of study, his bibliography of important contributions to the natural sciences would far exceed a hundred titles, the best known, perhaps, being his monograph of the "Coal Measure Amphibia" (1916); "Studies in the Paleopathology of Ancient Egypt" (1921), being a memorial volume prepared by Dr. Moodie for Lady Ruffer and dedicated to Professor Marc Armand Ruffer; "The Antiquity of Disease" (1923); "Study of the Ancient Evidence of Disease" (1923). Only a few days prior to his untimely death he had completed, ready for publication by the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, of which he was paleopathologist, his monumental work of three large volumes on the "Paleopathology of the California Saber-tooth; and other Felidae," largely based on material in the Los Angeles Museum collections.—W. A. B.

MEMORIALS

THE plans of the International Edison Foundation for the erection of a memorial to Thomas Alva Edison on Eagle Rock, West Orange, which juts out from the Orange Mountains and overlooks the greater part of the lower Hudson Valley, are reported to have been approved by his family. The plans call for a marble obelisk 350 feet in height, which tapers off into the outline of two hands holding an incandescent electric light globe. At the base of the obelisk is to be a bronze statue of Edison. The architects are John B. Peterkin and Hugh A. Kelly. Charles Keck is the sculptor. Behind the tower there is to be a landscaped park. The project includes a permanent resting place for the body of the inventor, which is now in a temporary grave in Rosedale Cemetery, West Orange. Although final decision has not yet been made by the foundation, its officers recently announced that the plans of Keck, Peterkin and Kelly were being favorably considered. Funds for the project, for which $2,000,000 are required, will be raised by subscription.

BECAUSE of the depression and the consequent difficulty of collecting funds, plans for the erection of a memorial in memory of the late Professor Stephen Moulton Babcock, of the University of Wisconsin, have been changed. Instead of the statue, whatever funds are collected will be used for a bronze plaque to be placed on the campus of the Agricultural College. Lorado Taft will be commissioned to design the plaque. More than 200 contributions from individuals and firms in Wisconsin and throughout the nation have been made to the fund during the past two years. Dr. E. H. Farrington, emeritus professor of dairy husbandry, is secretary-treasurer of the fund.

THE Olive M. Lammert Laboratories in the Sanders Chemical Laboratory of Vassar College were dedicated in February to the memory of the late Professor Olive M. Lammert in the presence of many of her former colleagues and students. President MacCracken spoke briefly of Professor Lammert's attainments as a scholar. He also announced the gift by two of her former students, Elizabeth Travers Palmer and Isabel Mills, of a bookcase for these laboratories and of a book-plate for books from Professor Lammert's library and such others as shall be added from time to time by her friends. These books will form a library for collateral reading for students in the field of physical chemistry. There followed the unveiling of a bronze tablet, the inscription of which concludes with the words "Her brilliant joyous teaching was an inspiration."

VISCOUNT FALMOUTH presented on January 18 to the Institution of Electrical Engineers a copy of Sir William Orpen's painting of the late Sir Charles Parsons.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. AUGUSTUS TROWBRIDGE, professor of physics and since 1928 dean of the Graduate School of Prince-

ton University, died on March 14 at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. FRANCIS PRESTON VENABLE, professor of chemistry emeritus at the University of North Carolina and president of the university from 1900 to 1914, died on March 18, in his seventy-eighth year.

DR. OMAR E. LOWMAN, a member of the department of chemistry at the Iowa State College for the last ten years, died on February 10 in his forty-eighth year.

W. D'ARCY RYAN, head of the illuminating laboratory of the General Electric Company, died on March 14, at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. FREDERIC SHEPARD DENNIS, professor emeritus of clinical surgery at the Cornell University Medical College, died on March 8. He was in his eighty-fourth year.

DR. ROGER S. MORRIS, head of the medical department of the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati, died on March 2 at the age of fifty-six years.

DR. DAVIDSON BLACK, professor of anatomy at the Peiping Union Medical College from 1919 to 1921, when he was appointed to the chair of anatomy and made honorary director of the Cenozoic research laboratory of the National Geological Survey in China, died on March 15, at the age of forty-nine years. He had been working in the laboratory of the Peiping Union Medical College of the Rockefeller Foundation.

PROFESSOR F. W. HARDWICK, emeritus professor of mining in the University of Sheffield, past-president of the Midland Institute of Mining, Civil and Mechanical Engineers, died on January 24, aged seventy-three years.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS LLEWELLYN GRIFFITH, professor emeritus of Egyptology at University College, London, died on March 14, at the age of seventy-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS AND PROGRESSIVE SCIENCE

THE following account of the service to science of the late King of the Belgians is given in *Nature:*

A great figure of the War has passed away with the death, on February 17, of Albert I, King of the Belgians, at the early age of fifty-eight years. For nearly twenty-five years he guided his people faithfully, carrying them with him through the War years, urging them on and directing their progress during the not less uncertain years following the Peace of Versailles. His work in the political field has been set forth in many places. We are concerned here with his interest in science and scientific research, of which he was a convincing advocate. He played an active part in the development of scientific institutions in Belgium. The protection of flora and fauna, particularly of tropical regions, early attracted his attention, and in 1909, after a visit to the Congo, he put forward a plea for protective measures which culminated with the creation, in 1929, of the Parc National Albert, a nature reserve of nearly 1,400 square miles. So recently as 1932, King Albert visited the Kivu Park with Professor V. Van Straelen in order to see for himself the effectiveness of the protective measures.

King Albert's name will also be associated with the "Fonds national de la recherche scientifique" in Belgium. Speaking at the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the well-known Cockerill iron and steel works at Seraing in the autumn of 1927, the king declared emphatically that pure science is indispensable to industry, and that the nation which neglects science and the savant is marked for decadence. The appeal had an immediate effect. A great gathering was held at the Palais des Académies, Brussels, which was attended by the king, ministers of state, and representatives of industry, finance, politics, science and the universities. Again King Albert made a powerful plea for science, poor herself but the creator of riches, for security and independence for scientific workers in order that they might devote themselves entirely to their studies; then he announced the creation of the "Fonds national," to which he invited industrial and financial interests to contribute. King Albert was well known in Great Britain, and on a recent visit, his enthusiasm for scientific research led him to spend an afternoon examining the treasures of the Royal Institution, after which he enjoyed a "laboratory" tea with Sir William Bragg and members of the staff, and watched some experiments with liquid air in illustration of the late Sir James Dewar's work.

EXPLORATION OF THE ANTARCTIC

A SPECIAL correspondent from London reports to the *Herald-Tribune* that a British expedition to the Antarctic will start next autumn, under the leadership of John R. Rymill, who was a member of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, to explore Graham Land and the waters around Luitpold Land and Charcot Land.

Sir Hubert Wilkins flew over this area in 1929. As a result of his reports it has been generally assumed that Graham Land is not a peninsula but an island, but visibility from the air in the Antarctic is very deceptive. According to the correspondent, Rymill thinks that there is still doubt as to whether Graham Land is an island, and it will be one of the objects of his expedition to clarify this point. It is also believed that there are two channels leading up through Luitpold Land, but owing to the difficulty