

DR. JAY FRANK SCHAMBERG, professor of dermatology and syphilology at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, died on March 30, at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. CHARLES WENDELL TOWNSEND, formerly specialist in obstetrics and children's diseases in Boston, known for his work in ornithology, died on April 3 in his seventy-fifth year.

DR. FRANCIS GARNER MILLER, dean of the School of Forestry of the University of Idaho since 1917, died on March 8, at the age of sixty-three years.

SYDNEY HOWARD VINES, emeritus professor of botany at the University of Oxford, died on April 5 at the age of eighty-four years. Professor Vines was Sherardian professor of botany and fellow of Magdalen College from 1888 to 1919.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

A LETTER to the London *Times* for March 19 calls attention to the fact that the work of the Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden is threatened by the encroachment of the builder. The letter is signed by Devonshire, chairman of the Society for the Extension of the Rothamsted Experiments; F. Gowland Hopkins, president of the Royal Society; Stradbroke, president of the Royal Agricultural Society; Stanley O. Rateliff, president of the National Farmers' Union; Clinton, chairman of the Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee; A. D. Hall, scientific adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture; E. J. Russell, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

The station was founded in 1843 by John Bennet Lawes, the squire of Rothamsted, with whom was associated Joseph Henry Gilbert, chemist, and for many years it was carried on at the expense of the founder. Before he died he set up a trust to continue the work, endowed it with £100,000 and the use for 100 years of the experimental plots that had even then become classical.

The letter is quoted in part below:

It is the special feature of these field experiments that they have been carried on without essential change ever since they were started some 80 to 90 years ago. From the outset various measurements and records have been systematically taken and the work was so well planned that the mass of data now accumulated forms a veritable treasure-house for the agricultural experimenter because it is found to provide material for the elucidation of all sorts of agricultural problems far removed from those in the minds of the founders.

Much of the farm has been "zoned" for houses: it now has a prospective building value. The several agreements under which the land has hitherto been held from the estate no longer afford any certainty of continuity; and the only possible way of averting the impending danger is for the Lawes Agricultural Trust itself to acquire the estate, including the Manor House. A purchase price of £30,000 has been agreed between Sir Edwin Savill, acting for the trust, and the Public Trustee, acting for the estate, but the offer is open for a short time

only. The trust has no accumulated reserves, its whole income going on the maintenance of the work. The Development Fund for the present is not available. Meanwhile the time is short and the urgency great. We venture therefore to appeal through you to some generous donor or donors to come forward and save these famous and invaluable field experiments and thus allow the workers to continue their investigations in peace and security.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ELECTRO-RADIO-BIOLOGY

FOR the purpose of instituting among physicists, chemists, biologists, naturalists and physicians a close and profitable collaboration which is indispensable for the advance of radio-biology considered not as a branch of radiology or of biology but as a separate science, the International Society of Radio-Biology is now organizing the first International Congress of Electro-Radio-Biology. The congress will bring together for the first time those whose studies are concerned with matters having a direct or indirect relation with the subject. The congress will take place in Venice in September under the presidency of H. E. Count Volpi di Misurata, Minister of State.

An Italian correspondent writes: All subjects concerning oscillatory and corpuscular phenomena in relation to biology will be under review, including super-sonics, electric waves, light of different wave-lengths, radium, penetrating radiation and its probable influence on organic matter and living organisms, photodynamic action, long-distance action of metals, Gurtwitsch rays, luminescence, radiation of radio-active salts in organic combinations; electric states of the atmosphere; spectrography; influences of radiation on heredity, etc. These subjects will be treated by specialists.

Following lectures by leading investigators there will be discussions of a more strictly radio-biological nature.

The following scientific men are expected to be present:

Emil Abderhalden (Halle, A. S.); Belak (Budapest); Brunetti Rita (Cagliari); Arthur H. Compton (Chi-