

As a taxonomist, Dr. Britton was distinctly a middle-of-the-road man in the matter of specific and generic delimitations. As to families, he leaned strongly towards segregation when strong and reasonably constant characters existed. He was extremely cautious and slow in reaching conclusions on such critical questions, but extremely fixed in his decision, once made. He was, moreover, unmoved by the extent and authority of the opposition, after being once convinced. In no other connection was this steadfastness to conviction so thoroughly exhibited as in the matter of principles and rules of nomenclature; perhaps it is more accurate to say "in the basing of rules on principle." He appeared to regard the history of taxonomy as a highly important part of the science, and believed that the foundations of this history should be expressed in the names. The truth as to publication, he believed, should be stated in the name, a thing that could not be done except by indicating priority. This, in spite of all ups and downs, lapses and subterfuges, he believed must at some time be accepted, and he preferred to work on that basis. Hence, when botanical taxonomists, by a large majority, adopted "Truth, Ltd." as their procedure, if not their slogan, he replied, "Truth, Absolute!" And thus took his place with the small minority who think more of accuracy than they do of convenience.

HENRY H. RUSBY

#### RECENT DEATHS

WILLIAM HASTINGS BASSETT, the newly elected president of the American Society for Testing Materials, died on July 21, at the age of sixty-six years. Mr. Bassett was metallurgical manager of the American Brass Company, Waterbury, Conn. He was a past-president of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (1930) and a former director of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

GOODWIN DELOSS SWEZEY, professor emeritus of astronomy at the University of Nebraska, died on July 10, at the age of eighty-three years.

DR. HENRY ARNSTEIN, chemist and engineer of Philadelphia, died on July 24, at the age of forty-eight years.

DR. CHARLES AUBREY PARKER, orthopedic surgeon, for forty years on the staff of Rush Medical College, died on July 16. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. JOSEPH BAXTER EMERSON, for fifty-two years an eye and ear specialist in New York and for forty years connected with the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, died on July 24 at the age of eighty years.

DR. STEPHAN RICHARZ, professor of geology at the Fu-Jen University, Peiping, China, died on July 14. He was sixty years old.

DR. BENJAMIN W. HUNT died at his home in Eatonton, Georgia, on June 26, at the age of eighty-seven years. He was a banker by profession, but his reputation was made along agricultural and horticultural lines. He was a member of the Georgia State Academy of Science, past-president of the Georgia State Horticultural Society, and was at one time a member of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Experiment Station. He was a leader in his community in the development of the dairy industry, and was in the forefront of the fight against contagious abortion and the eradication of the cattle tick. Dr. Hunt was an authority on hardy palms and in plant breeding, being the first man to artificially cross the mule fig in the South. He was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science by the University of Georgia in 1922. In his death Georgia and the South lose a great factor for leadership, and the last link with Berekmans and early American horticulture is gone.—T. H. McH.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY

THE *London Times* reports that Mr. Justice Bennett has sanctioned in principle an application by the trustees of Dr. John Radcliffe (who died in 1714) for leave to proceed with a scheme by which £72,000 of the £100,000 obtained from the sale of the property on which Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, stands will be applied in building, equipping and maintaining near Pretoria, South Africa, an astronomical observatory.

Mr. Justice Bennett, in giving judgment, said:

The testator left his residuary real and personal estate to certain named trustees to be paid and applied to such

charitable purposes as they in their discretion should think best.

In 1770, at the instance of the Savilian professor of astronomy in the University of Oxford, the trustees of the will obtained an order of the Court, made by the Lord Chancellor, to purchase, out of the testator's estate, a piece of land on which to build an observatory for reading lectures in astronomy and to furnish the building with the necessary instruments. In the first place they obtained a lease of some land for the purpose and erected the observatory on it. At the beginning of the nineteenth century an Act of Parliament was obtained enabling the trustees to buy the land from St. John's College, Oxford, and the land continued in their ownership until 1930. In that year the trustees entered into a

contract for the sale of the site for which Sir William Morris (now Lord Nuffield) had given £100,000. The trustees had to come to the Court for leave to carry the contract into effect.

On July 17, 1930, an order was made sanctioning the sale. By the order the applicants were given liberty to carry the contract into effect and the matter was referred to Chambers for a scheme with regard to the application of the purchase money to be settled.

The scheme was one by which the trustees sought to be allowed to accept the offer of the Municipality of Pretoria to give to them about 57 acres of land on the range of hills known as "Klapper Kop," about four miles from Pretoria, and that the trustees should apply a sum not exceeding £72,000 in laying out and building an astronomical observatory there, and in building residences suitable for a staff and in equipping the observatory with a 72-inch reflecting telescope and other necessary equipment. The balance of the fund was to be used for the maintenance of the observatory.

The University of Oxford had been given liberty to attend the proceedings and had opposed the scheme mainly on the ground that it brought about a complete severance between the university and the observatory. He (his Lordship) could, however, find nothing in the history of the observatory which had given the university any legal right in the matter, though he could understand the feeling of the university after having had this observatory in Oxford for so long.

It was quite obvious from the evidence that the trustees, as one would expect, had given the most careful attention to all the questions which had arisen when they sold the site, and he was satisfied, after having considered the evidence, that the proposals of the trustees were beyond criticism, if the fund was to be used to the best advantage in the interest of astronomy.

#### THE NEW YORK POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL

THE New York Post-Graduate Medical School, Columbia University, announces an intensive four weeks' course in tuberculosis for physicians, beginning on Monday, August 27. It is under the direction of Dr. George G. Ornstein.

The course has been planned with the idea of presenting the problem of pulmonary tuberculosis in its many phases, and in a simple and logical manner. With this end in view the hours have been so arranged that the laboratory and relatively few didactic hours are immediately followed by and are intimately connected with clinical sessions illustrating the various points involved. Throughout the course emphasis has been placed on actual case study. The matriculate will do most of the work himself on the hospital ward. For this purpose over 1,700 tuberculosis beds are available at Sea View Hospital. Practically every type of case of chronic pulmonary disease with the various complications is well represented.

A history of tuberculosis will be presented on the

first morning. The five following mornings will be spent in the department of pathology, where gross and microscopic pathology will be presented. By means of the wealth of material available for demonstration, the various type of tissue reaction will be shown, the question of the pathogenesis of tuberculosis discussed, and a firm groundwork established upon which the later clinical presentations will be based. The afternoons of the first week will be entirely clinical.

The mornings of the second week will be spent in the bacteriological laboratory and in the x-ray department. Various procedures of bacteriological technique will be presented to and practiced by the matriculate. Methods of staining and cultivation of tubercle bacilli, questions of immunology and various other related topics will be thoroughly studied. Following a discussion of the physiology of respiration and the problems of blood, and of gaseous interchange in respiratory disease, there will be presented a study of the principles of physical diagnosis. The afternoons of the second week will be given over to the clinical implications of the morning studies. There will be demonstrations of the various pathological types of tuberculosis with a correlation of the pathological and bacteriological principles and the clinical disease.

The third week of the seminar will be entirely clinical. The first three mornings will be devoted to important problems of metabolic disease, diabetes, Bright's disease, amyloid disease and the various nutritional states as seen in the hospital service. All these will be presented and discussed. The remainder of the third week will be given over largely to the complications of pulmonary tuberculosis: *e.g.*, tuberculosis of the larynx, pregnancy in tuberculosis, etc.

The fourth week will be devoted chiefly to the surgical treatment of tuberculosis. Pneumothorax (selection of cases, technique, duration of treatment, complications) will be discussed and demonstrated. Indications for the various types of operation, such as phrenic evulsion, thoracoplasty and apicolysis, will be considered. This will be followed by a morning in the operating room during which the various operations will be performed. Follow-up clinics of cases actually under treatment will be presented so that the matriculate may have the opportunity of evaluating the various procedures that have been demonstrated.

#### DEDICATION OF THE MOUNTAIN LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

THE buildings of the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia were formally dedicated on the afternoon of July 21 in the presence of representatives of many of the southern colleges. The station is one mile north of Mountain Lake in Giles