Rico Anemia Commission, died on November 1, aged sixty-one years.

DR. LUCILE B. WHITCHER, associate professor of organic and physiological chemistry at Skidmore College, died on October 16 at the age of thirty-seven years. She had been at Skidmore College for eleven years.

# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE NEW BUILDING FOR ZOOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Times* writes: "The old zoological lecture rooms and laboratories, familiar to generations of students of medicine and natural sciences at Cambridge, have ceased to function. They had served their purpose, in some cases from the days of Newton and Francis Balfour, but became no longer adaptable to current demands. If zoology was to grow with the times new buildings, extra endowment and more staff were needed. The means for fulfilling such aspirations were ultimately made available through the generosity of the Rockefeller Trustees, aided by state and private benefactions, and this afternoon the new zoology building, erected at a cost of £80,000 under a committee with the University Treasurer (Mr. T. Knox-Shaw) as chairman will be open for inspection."

The building, as described in the *Times*, is an L-shaped structure of steel and concrete, and for the most part faced with brick. With a frontage on Downing Street and Corn Exchange Street, it measures 292 feet long, with a breadth of 43 feet. The architect has designed a building of a strictly utilitarian type combined with a certain grace of line and proportion. In some ways it resembles the best type of modern factory construction, the narrow pillars in the walls being 6½ feet apart; except for these, the walls above bench level are entirely of windows, thus providing the maximum amount of natural lighting. Adaptability to possible future requirements is a special feature in the planning; the walls between adjacent rooms are easily removable, while the furniture is of uniform design, allowing the maximum interchangeability.

The building consists of a basement and four floors. In the basement are heating and service supplies, together with rooms for marine and freshwater aquaria. There are also four differentially heated constant-temperature rooms. The ground floor is given over to elementary teaching: it contains a well-designed lecture theater, with seating for over 200 students, and, close at hand, an exceptionally large and well-appointed elementary laboratory. The first floor contains an advanced laboratory and lecture room, the professor's room, and general offices, a staff room, and private rooms for 12 research workers, together with the departmental library.

The whole of the second floor is given over to experimental zoology, which has a large teaching laboratory and 14 rooms available for research. Each room is provided with water, gas, direct and alternating current, and compressed air. Complete provision is made for keeping animals under suitable environmental conditions; there are also several dark rooms, a chemical laboratory, and well-fitted workshops. The chief rooms are provided with means for maintaining them at a steady temperature, often below that of the main building. The third floor is given over to entomology, with rooms for the staff and nine other workers. A large incubator room for studying the effects of temperature and humidity on insect growth is provided. There is also a room for other types of experimental work, an aquarium room, dark room, stores and a small workshop.

The Rockefeller scheme also provided for an entomological field station, which has been erected on the University Farm. It includes laboratory accommodation for advanced students, differentially heated insect houses and out-of-door rearing houses. Adjoining these buildings is an area of about two acres of experimental ground, affording ample means for observing insects under natural conditions.

The Department of Zoology, as rebuilt and reorganized, provides full provision for all grades of teaching and complete facilities for research. There are places for 60 post-graduate workers (including the staff), and 58 have come into occupation. The reorganization planned by Professor Stanley Gardiner has been rendered possible owing to considerable allocations being made for income purposes. This has enabled provision to be made for the upkeep of the subdepartments of entomology and experimental zoology and for the necessary additional staff.

## A PROFILE OF SHOAL WATER DEPTHS BY ECHO SOUNDING

CAPTAIN R. S. PATTON, director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, has announced a recent improvement in the apparatus to obtain depths by echo sounding. The equipment, now being used in surveys off the Virginia coast, takes 20 soundings a second in depths from 6 to 120 feet, with an accuracy of about one inch. At a cruising speed of ten miles per hour, a sounding is therefore obtained every ten inches along the bottom.

This instrument, known as the "Shoal Fathometer," is a further development of the deep water fathom-