Dr. Ashford, the director of the School of Tropical Medicine said, in part:

> To our immediate Association it will be a silent and ever-present inspiration of courage and victory in the face of overwhelming odds; to the People of Puerto Rico who have made possible this noble gift, it is a visual recognition of the affection felt by rich and by poor alike for one who has given his services freely and impartially. Not only do they regard him as a healer, but as an instructor who has indicated the way to health to thousands of living in hookworm-infested areas. To future generations it will be pointed to with pride, as a symbolized standard of high achievement by which to measure their own attainments.

Dr. Ashford is survived by his wife and three married children, all at present in Puerto Rico. He was buried on November the second, according to the rites of the Episcopal Church, and with full military honors, in the military cemetery of San Juan. Affection and respect were shown by thousands of people, who from all walks of life followed their beloved soldier and scientist to the grave.

GEORGE W. BACHMAN

PHILIPP FISCHELIS

DR. PHILIPP FISCHELIS died at his home in Philadelphia of angina pectoris on Tuesday, October 30, 1934, at the age of 76. He was buried the following Friday at Chelten Hills Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Although not in the best of health for some months he had continued his teaching in the School of Dentistry of Temple University and had lectured to his classes on the afternoon preceding his demise. He returned to his home from a faculty meeting late on Monday, October 29, and passed away shortly after midnight.

Dr. Fischelis was born on December 8, 1857. He studied biology and medicine at various universities in Europe, including Leipzig, Koenigsberg and Berlin. He received the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Berlin in 1885 and after further study and interneship at hospitals in Berlin he came to the United States in 1889, settling in Philadelphia, where he practised medicine for many years and taught histology, embryology and pathology at several medical and dental colleges. In 1890 he married Ernestine Kempt, who died in 1923. They had three sons and three daughters, all of whom survive.

Among the teaching positions held by Dr. Fischelis are the following: Instructor in rhinology and laryngology at the Philadelphia Polyclinic (1893–1902); demonstrator of histology and embryology, Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia (1903–1909); associate professor (1909–1917); professor of histology, embryology and general pathology and director of laboratories in the Dental School of Temple University, Philadelphia (1917–1934).

His researches in Germany and in this country included work on the development of the thyroid and thymus glands and lungs. He was author of the chapters on reproduction and evolution in "Ott's Physiology" and co-author with Dr. I. N. Broomell of "Anatomy and Histology of the Mouth and Teeth."

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia County Medical Societies, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Anatomists, the Association of American University Professors, the National Geographic Societies and other organizations.

A wide circle of friends, colleagues and former students mourn his loss.

A CORRESPONDENT

MEMORIALS

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Otto Knut Olof Folin, who, at the time of his death, on October 25, was Hamilton Kuhn professor of biological chemistry at Harvard, was presented to the university at memorial exercises held in the Medical School on November 23. Professor Walter B. Cannon presented the portrait, and Dr. David L. Edsall, dean of the Medical School, accepted it in behalf of the university. The other speakers were Professor Cyrus H. Fiske and Professor Henry A. Christian. The portrait was originally to have been given in Dr. Folin's presence at a dinner celebrating his service to the university.

AT the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists at Washington, Dr. W. D. Bigelow, director of the research laboratories of the National Canners Association of Washington, delivered the fourth Wiley Memorial Address, his subject being "Food Preservation in Relation to Public Health." Dr. Bigelow was the first assistant chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under Dr. Wiley, the first president of the association.

THE Adolph Lomb Optical Library has been presented to the University of Virginia by Henry C. Lomb, of New York, as a memorial to his brother, Adolph Lomb. Liberal provision has been made for the shelving of this special library and for keeping the material up to date. Included in the collection are 706 books, 470 monographs and brochures and 174 bound and 86 unbound volumes of scientific journals. According to Professor Llewellyn G. Hoxton, head of the school of physics, there are among these many rare volumes that can not be found elsewhere in the United States and in but few European libraries.

FOLLOWING the death of Dr. Walter Ernest Dixon, of Cambridge, England, in August, 1931, a memorial fund was collected to establish a lectureship in therapeutics and pharmacology in his memory. The first Dixon Memorial Lecture will be given by Sir Henry Dale at the Royal Society of Medicine on December 11. The subject of his address will be "Pharmacology and Nerve Endings."

A SQUARE in front of the Salpêtrière, Paris, has recently been named after the late Mme. Marie Curie.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. COLLIER COBB, professor of geology at the University of North Carolina, died on November 28. He was seventy-two years old.

DR. OTTO VERNON DARBISHIRE, Melville Wills professor of botany at the University of Bristol, died on October 11, at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. JOHN WALTER LEATHER, from 1892 to 1916 agricultural chemist to the Government of India, died on November 14. He was seventy-three years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE "MEDICAL CITY" OF THE SOVIET UNION

HAROLD DENNY, correspondent of *The New York Times*, cables that in Moscow the Soviet government has allotted a 1,000-acre site in the Silver Forest on the Moscow River, a ten-minute drive from the capital, for "Medical City," designed to be the largest and most modern medical institute in the world. The plans are being drawn in consultation with a commission that recently studied the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, the New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center and the Rockefeller Institute in New York. Actual construction of the great network of buildings, which are planned to cost 150,000,000 rubles, is scheduled to begin in the spring.

The organization that will use the new plant is already functioning as the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine. It is under the direct authority of the government and its findings are turned over to the Commissariat of Health for application in hospitals throughout the Soviet Union. The director is Professor Lev Nicolaevich Feodorov, pupil of Professor Ivan Pavlov.

The enlarged institution plans to cover both the work done by the Cornell and Columbia Presbyterian centers and the Rockefeller Institute—that is, both practical and theoretical. A feature will be the "Clinic of the Healthy Man," where observations will be made of the behavior of normal men and women after working, eating, resting, etc. There will be special chambers, where the temperature, air pressure and other conditions of different climates—arctic, sub-tropic and even undersea and stratospheric—will be reproduced and their effects on living organisms studied.

The institute will be a real city with a technical personnel of 5,500 doctors, nurses and research workers and 600 patients, each of the latter in a private room, and with almost one laboratory per patient. There will be apartment houses for the staff, and stores, theaters and other features of a complete town.

A NATIONAL INVENTORY OF LAND PRODUCTIVITY

A PLAN to make an inventory of land resources which will give each type of land an index number of value based on productivity was presented before the recent annual meeting of the American Soil Survey Association. The scheme was developed by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is being further developed in several states.

The productivity of each land type for a certain crop is being recorded in relation to the productivity of the best land in the country for that crop. The value of this most productive land type would be represented by 100. Land half as productive would be listed at 50. This makes possible the comparison of land types as to productivity, not only within a locality of county, but in widely separated regions.

A classification of land types as to physical productivity is desirable because of the various factors responsible for productivity in general—land, labor, fertilizer, seed, implements and management. All but land are variable as to time. They are variable because of the ease with which they can be modified by man in response to economic conditions. The characteristics of land, climate, surface and soil are essentially stable.

Thus, a geographic inventory of land resources will have significance 50 to 100 years hence and not merely at the present, even though some changes in land do occur through such agents as erosion or irrigation.

In the case of poorly drained land or land subject to overflow, two sets of productivity numbers are given, one applying to the land in its poorly drained or flood-hazardous condition, the other under conditions of the best drainage or protection from overflow. No classification of irrigated land types has yet been undertaken on this basis.