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.