in the service of Harvard University, passing through the various academic grades until he was made full professor of anthropology in 1915. In 1904 he became librarian of the Peabody Museum, in 1908 secretary and in 1912 curator of ethnology. At the time of his death he held all these positions.

In the earlier years of his professional career, Dixon did extensive field work in anthropology. He carried on archeological excavations in Ohio, made ethnological researches among the Indians of British Columbia and Alaska, and spent no less than six seasons of work among the California Indians. His subsequent travel and investigation took him to New Zealand, Tasmania, Australia, Fiji and various parts of Asia. Nevertheless, Professor Dixon was primarily a student of anthropological literature rather than a field worker. He acquired a reading knowledge of numerous foreign languages, which, with his indefatigable industry, enabled him to master existing knowledge of the anthropology of four great continental areas: North and South America, Oceania and Asia. He classified and digested this prodigious mass of information, put it in card catalogues, and made it the basis of ethnographic lecture courses which were a model of organization and were exhaustive yet stimulating. From no other anthropologist in the world could students acquire a similar mastery of anthropological fact. Dixon carried an incredible store of this knowledge in his head and could produce instantaneously a detailed and sometimes complete bibliography of any subject within his chosen areas. He even succeeded in keeping up to date with the literature of his subject, and, so far as possible, read all of it.

In the Peabody Museum library Dixon established a catalogue system whereby books and articles in anthropological periodicals were classified not only by author but also by subject and by area. His unflagging energy in pushing forward this formidable task has made the anthropological library of the Peabody Museum the most easily utilizable and the best organized for research of any collection in the world.

Dixon's particular anthropological interest was in material culture and its diffusion. He wrote many articles on this subject—all notable because of his scholarship and his refusal to be lured from the path of scientific truth by romantic theories. His larger works, apart from technical monographs, include a book on the mythology of Oceania, a volume entitled "The Building of Cultures" and his widely discussed "Racial History of Mankind." The last-named was an adventurous foray into the field of physical anthropology, whereby the peoples of the world were classified according to the tripartite categories of three cranial indices as combined in individuals. This work was based upon a complete study of existing anthropometric material, and was a pioneer effort to establish the principle that racial classification should be based upon individual combinations rather than upon isolated group means. In spite of the vulnerability of Dixon's method in several of its processes, he succeeded in establishing a considerable number of important new points concerning human distribution and migration. Many of these have been confirmed subsequently by independent investigations of other scholars employing more elaborate methods than his widely condemned "short cut." Dixon was accustomed to refer to this book jocosely as "my crime," but, in the opinion of the present writer (who disagrees profoundly with many of Dixon's results and with most of his methods), "The Racial History of Mankind" is the most provocative and brilliant book of his anthropological generation. It will be perused when many safe and sane anthropological works have been forgotten.

Dixon was a solitary bachelor who lived contentedly in a beautiful country home, intentionally selected for its remoteness from Cambridge. Three times a week he emerged from his seclusion to empty upon his students his capacious vials of knowledge. Upon graduate students, engaged in research, he lavished his time and his inexhaustible supply of knowledge. As a director and critic of research Dixon was superb. In examinations he was formidably exacting, unsympathetic, but just. He commanded the fear, admiration and respect of his students, and the complete confidence of his colleagues. He labored incessantly and effectively to develop at Harvard a well-rounded anthropological curriculum based upon sound and conservative scholarship and thorough factual knowledge.

Professor Dixon was encrusted with an almost impenetrable reserve, topped with a high gloss of genial courtesy. Almost no one had access to the arcana of his personality. He was, underneath, a sensitive and kindly man, who led his life according to his own private rules and measured up to his own lofty ideals of conduct and performance. Throughout a protracted and wasting illness, he fought indomitably and stubbornly to continue in the discharge of his duties, never admitting to his colleagues (if indeed to himself) the inevitability of his defeat. He fully merited the Horatian encomium, "iustum et tenacem propositi virum."

E. A. HOOTON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. DAVID WHITE, senior geologist in the U. S. Geological Survey and recipient of the Wolcott award from the National Academy of Sciences, died on February 7 at the age of seventy-two years.

ROBERT R. ROWLEY, instructor in science at the Louisiana high school in Louisiana, Mo., and formerly paleontologist with the Missouri Geological Survey, died on January 26 at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. ROGER H. DENNETT, professor in children's diseases at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and director of the pediatrics department of the Post-Graduate Hospital, died on February 3 at the age of fifty-eight years.

FREDERICK O. WILLHOFFT, formerly professor of mechanical engineering at Columbia University, died on February 6 at the age of fifty-eight years.

HARRY DE BERKELEY PARSONS, professor emeritus of practical engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, died on January 26. He was seventy-three years of age.

DR. EDMUND B. PIPER, professor of obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Graduate School of Medicine, died on January 14. He was in his fifty-fourth year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ACQUISITIONS OF THE BRITISH NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

THE London *Times* reports that among recent acquisitions of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, is an important collection of 300 birds obtained by A. W. Vincent in the southeastern district of the Belgian Congo. This area has been very little investigated from the ornithological point of view, and the accession includes many forms hitherto unrepresented or very poorly represented in the national collection.

A series of skulls of the larger Indian carnivores has been presented by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Carlisle, and a collection of game trophies from Northern India and Upper Burma by Colonel C. E. Nichol. Miss A. E. Thomson has given a very rare flying squirrel from Borneo.

A valuable addition to the entomological department's collection of *Hemiptera* consists of 17 specimens of *Termitaphidae,* presented by Dr. J. G. Myers, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. These rare and little-known insects are found only in the nests of white ants in America and the Old World, but the nature of the association is not known. Superficially they suggest in appearance diminutive woodlice or scale insects.

A purchase of particular interest is a collection of 500 beetles from Tibet, Central Asia, Western China and the Altai Mountains, the majority of which are paratypes of species hitherto unrepresented in the department. The Public Schools Exploration Society has presented the whole of the entomological collections made during their recent expedition to Newfoundland.

Geological acquisitions include 100 specimens of primitive fish-like Ostracoderms, obtained by Wickham King, chiefly from the old red sandstone of Worcestershire; and a fine series collected by Dr. E. I. White, and H. A. Toombs from Herefordshire, comprising many forms new to science.

As a bequest from the late T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, the mineralogical department has acquired a valuable collection of gemstones; the 90 cut stones, many of them of large size, include 16 fine colored diamonds, parti-colored corundum, tourmaline, opal, alexandrite, etc.; and there are uncut specimens of opal and moonstone and large masses of Kaurigum from New Zealand.

The first meteorite to be recorded from Rhodesia, a stone weighing 481 pounds and 11 ounces, which fell last March in the Mangwendi native reserve, 40 miles east of Salisbury, has been presented by the government of Southern Rhodesia.

A NUTRITIONAL STUDY OF BELGIAN UNEMPLOYED

ACCORDING to the *British Medical Journal,* an investigation into the living conditions and budgets of insured unemployed in Brussels was carried out in 1932, and the sociological results have already been published. Bigwood and Roost now record the nutritional data under the title "L'Alimentation Rationnelle." The facts were obtained from a month's study (January to February) of nineteen families, chosen at random from the lists of unemployed, which comprised ninety-three persons. Quantities of foodstuffs bought or given were entered in notebooks. The analyses of foodstuffs used for computation were chiefly those of Van de Weyer for Belgian produce, with special analyses where necessary. Foodstuffs as consumed probably did not vary more than from -3 to $+3$ per cent. from analytical tables. Refuse ranged from 7.5 to 14 per cent. of total foodstuffs as bought (average 11 per cent.), high percentages being obtained chiefly where the amount of potatoes was large. Plate-waste was calculated as 1 per cent., intestinal waste as 4 per cent.; protein and carbohydrate were calculated to yield four calories per gram, fat nine calories.

Complete tables are given for each family for gross and net calories, grams of animal and vegetable protein, fat and carbohydrate. The percentage amount