

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