DR. BENJAMIN S. WARREN, from 1922 to 1934 medical director of the U. S. Public Health Service, died on May 20, at the age of sixty-three years.

JOSEPH THOMAS CUNNINGHAM, marine zoologist and biologist of the London Hospital Medical College, has died at the age of seventy-six years.

PROFESSOR GAETANO FICHERA, who was the director of the Milan Institute for Cancer Research, died on May 21. He was fifty-five years of age.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM IN GREAT BRITAIN

THERE was published on May 17 the report of the conference of representatives, nominated by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London, the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Society of Apothecaries of London, on the medical curriculum.

The members of the conference were: Lord Dawson of Penn (chairman), Professor Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard (chairman of the Executive Committee), Professor G. E. Gask (vice-chairman of the Executive Committee), Professor Sir Walter Langdon Brown, Dr. A. E. Clark-Kennedy, Sir Raymond H. P. Crawfurd, Professor Winifred Cullis, Professor H. R. Dean, Professor C. A. Lovatt Evans, E. L. Pearce Gould, Dr. A. M. H. Gray, Professor W. W. Jameson, T. Bramley Layton, Dr. M. H. MacKeith, Professor Sir Ewen Maclean, W. H. Ogilvie, Sir Holburt Waring and Professor W. Wright, with G. W. Rossetti as secretary.

The following are among the recommendations of the conference:

That the minimum length of the medical curriculum be not extended beyond the present period of five years.

Medical studies proper—*i.e.*, anatomy and physiology—should not be begun before the age of 18.

In view of the very considerable difficulties experienced by schools in teaching candidates for the requirements of the different syllabuses of the several examinations for 1st M.B. or basic sciences, the syllabuses in chemistry, physics and biology in the examinations for 1st M.B. or basic sciences of the different licensing bodies should be brought more into line one with another.

To ensure, during the period subsequent to passing matriculation, the continuance at schools of the general education of intending medical students, the licensing bodies should consider the possibility of allowing and encouraging exemption from the 1st M.B. examination by means of a higher school certificate examination conducted by any recognized examining body, in which, in addition to the three principal scientific subjects, a subsidiary non-scientific subject be taken.

During the first two years (six terms) of medical studies the work of the student should be arranged by a board of teachers representing anatomy, physiology, chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology and pathology.

During the first four terms of medical studies the student should continue the study of chemistry, carry out work in the dissecting room and department of anatomy, and, in the second term, begin the study of elementary physiology and biochemistry.

During the fifth and sixth terms of medical studies, while continuing the study of anatomy and physiology, the student should be introduced to the principles of general pathology, immunology and bacteriology by a pathologist.

The teaching of organic, physical and colloidal chemistry should be determined by conference between the teachers of physiology, biochemistry and chemistry, due weight being given to the opinions of the teachers of physiology on the special needs of students of medicine.

The teacher of anatomy should be given access to hospital material for teaching applied anatomy, with or without the assistance of a clinician attached to his department.

During the second year of medical studies the teacher of physiology, being provided, if necessary, for this purpose with a clinical assistant, should give demonstrations in applied physiology and familiarize the student with the use of the stethoscope, the ophthalmoscope, the laryngoscope and the otoscope.

During the second year of medical studies the teaching of pharmacology, which shall include toxicology, should be arranged in close cooperation with the teachers of physiology.

During the second year of medical studies the student should attend a short course of lectures in elementary medical psychology.

THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AT the meeting of the council of the American Chemical Society in New York City, on April 24, Professor Roger Adams gave the following summary of the work of the society to the one hundred and sixty-six councilors present at the meeting.

Since the beginning of 1934, the American Chemical Society has operated under a new plan of membership fees. In brief, individuals joining the society pay $9 for the privilege of membership and for the *News Edition*. A fixed additional sum is charged for each of the journals and members may select on this basis one or more of those desired. This procedure was introduced to accommodate those men who must consider their expenses carefully, and those who for one reason or another do not require all the society's pub-

lications. The detailed plans so carefully and skilfully developed by a committee of the society and adopted by the council have proved to be a very successful experiment. It has, Dr. Adams believes, operated to the satisfaction of practically all the membership and to the advantage of the American Chemical Society.

In 1932 and 1933 the society's income was insufficient to meet even the reduced budgets of those years. It is encouraging, therefore, that in 1934 the funds received were adequate, not only to handle all the financial obligations, but also to offset partially the rather substantial deficit of the previous year. The advertising revenue also improved. As a result of the somewhat larger income, the directors felt justified in increasing the publication appropriation in the 1935 budget so that the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* might provide more effectively for the printing of material submitted by the members; and that *Chemical Abstracts,* which had been required to contract below the desirable minimum, might expand slightly its presentation of the chemical literature of the world.

Because of the difficult years through which the society has just passed, a few comparative figures on the membership and subscriptions are pertinent. To-day the total membership is 17,003. On April 1 of this year, there were over 1,800 $9 members, representing about a 25 per cent. increase in this group over last year. The maximum number of resignations came at the beginning of 1933, but each year since then the number has materially decreased; at that time, also, the number of new members and reinstatements was at a minimum but has increased regularly during the intervening period.

As of April 1, 1935, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and *Chemical Abstracts* have each received subscriptions amounting to over 300 more than last year and *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* to over 800 more. The total subscriptions of all paid members and non-members to the three publications at present is over 9,100 for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society,* over 11,500 for *Chemical Abstracts* and over 14,700 for *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.* The *News Edition* enjoys the largest circulation of any magazine going to chemists—18,616. All indications point to a healthy condition of the society; all curves point upward.

Of the various committees of the society appointed last year, one of special interest because of its particular objectives may be mentioned. It has been actively engaged in studying the requirements of courses in education for chemists before they are eligible for teaching positions in high schools.

During 1934 the unemployment problem has received special attention. In addition to the free advertisement in the employment information pages of the *News Edition,* the activities of several of the local sections and the aid which is given through the secretary's office in placing before employers the names of unemployed, a committee of the society, with an appropriation for necessary expenses, has been attempting to determine the actual unemployment conditions among chemists and to point out how the society might cooperate to alleviate them.

The problem is a complicated one and extends beyond the attempt to find vacancies for those out of work. It involves a consideration of the training of the individuals as demanded by industry and the personal qualifications of those unemployed. It is recognized by all that the American Chemical Society can not directly create positions for chemists. It can and has devoted untiring effort to make the nation chemically conscious and thus indirectly to stimulate the industries to an appreciation of what contributions the chemist may make in a wide variety of fields of endeavor. Cooperation of the many efficient local agencies and of the national society in devising methods for aiding the unemployed should unquestionably lead to improved conditions.

INSTITUTIONS SELECTED FOR WORK BY FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE National Research Council has issued a bulletin giving the results of an inquiry into the institutions selected by research fellows in physical science at which to carry on their work. These results, with special reference to the situation at Princeton University, are summarized in the *Alumni Weekly,* in part, as follows:

National Research Council grants are given only to holders of the Ph.D. degree. Certain men divide their time among two or more universities, and in the following tables each institution has been credited as if the individual had spent his entire time there. Fellows in mathematics are accredited jointly to Princeton University and to the Institute for Advanced Study, the mathematics divisions of which cooperate in many phases of graduate work.

Chicago continues in first place in the matter of training men who are to be awarded National Research Council fellowships, but Princeton is close behind. For the three branches of science, future winners of fellowships have received Ph.D. degrees from the following universities, among others:

PLACE OF GRADUATE TRAINING
Past and Active Fellows

Chicago	45	Wisconsin	23
Princeton	43	Yale	22
California	37	Columbia	16
Harvard	35	Cornell	16
C. I. T.	31	M. I. T.	14
Hopkins	31	Michigan	14