

The local committee consisted of Professor E. H. Watson, of Bryn Mawr College, *chairman*; Samuel Gordon, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, *secretary*; Dr. B. L. Miller, of Lehigh University; Professor Frederick Ehrenfeld, of the University of Pennsylvania, and S. Herbert Hamilton, of the Atlantic Refining Company. The committee was assisted by other geologists from the U. S. Geological Survey, the DuPont Company, Bryn Mawr College and the University of Pennsylvania.

Registration and museum tours occupied the morning of the thirty-first, and in the afternoon the party divided into two groups for field trips. Trip A under Dr. Lincoln Dryden, of Bryn Mawr College, visited places of physiographic interest, chiefly southwest of Philadelphia, while Trip B, led by Mr. Gordon, paid attention to localities of mineralogic and petrologic interest near the city. On June 1 the entire conference joined in Trip C, an all-day excursion led by Dr. Watson. The party spent most of the time observing the crystalline rocks of the Piedmont north and west of Philadelphia. At localities of special interest, short lectures were delivered by authorities in the field, including Drs. F. Bascom, J. Gillson and D. Wyckoff. Excursion D on Sunday, June 2, was attended by the entire conference. Led by Dr. B. L. Miller, who was assisted by Drs. Watson, Dryden and E. T. Wherry, its chief objective was to observe the controversial area of the Chester Valley westward from Philadelphia, but other points of interest were the Valley Forge Cement Company's plant with newly installed flotation process, Valley Forge Park and exposures of the Triassic. On Monday a special excursion, Trip E, visited the Coastal Plain region of New Jersey. This trip was conducted by Professor Ehrenfeld and Dr. Henry B. Kümmel, state geologist of New Jersey.

On the evening of the thirty-first, the University of Pennsylvania tendered a complimentary smoker to the conference. In the unavoidable absence of President Gates, Dean Musser delivered the address of welcome. The annual dinner was scheduled for the evening of June 1. Dr. Gillson served as toastmaster. The dinner concluded with a business meeting.

The 1936 conference is to be held in conjunction with the members of the New York Geological Association, which has already accepted the Pennsylvania Conference's invitation to meet jointly in the anthracite fields. Therefore, a joint committee to consider the place and time of meeting and prepare the program and schedule of trips was appointed.

A total registration of 86 was recorded for the meetings this year with an actual attendance of at least a hundred, the largest number yet present. Besides Pennsylvanians from all parts of the Common-

wealth, geologists attended from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia. The record number was due largely to the controversial nature of much of the geology, especially the structural relations and age determinations of the formations of the Chester Valley region, problems which have recently drawn considerable interest among geologists in the eastern part of the United States. Despite the size of the party and the necessity of moving a motorcade of 25 to 30 cars through the thickly settled Philadelphia district, the trips were handled without difficulty, thanks to a trained escort of the Pennsylvania State Highway Patrol. The efficiency of the local committee in caring for all details is greatly to be commended, especially the time and effort which its members spent in preparing a forty-three page guide booklet and arranging a detailed itinerary.

BRADFORD WILLARD,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

THE fifth general assembly of the International Astronomical Union is meeting from July 9 to 17 in Paris under the presidency of Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the Yale University Observatory. Science Service reports that conferences will be held on plans for cooperative observations, questions of stellar notation and various special matters of international interest.

Astronomers from Soviet Russia will sit in the assembly for the first time, and representatives of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences will tell of plans being made to observe the sun's total eclipse in 1936. Germany is not yet a member of the union, but many Germans have been invited in a "consultative" capacity. Some thirty other nations are to be represented. There will be an exhibition of astronomical documents and apparatus. The Astronomical Society of France on the evening of July 14, the national holiday in France, will tender a banquet on the top floor of the Eiffel Tower.

President Schlesinger will deliver the principal address. Other American astronomers who will attend include: Dr. W. S. Adams, director of Mt. Wilson Observatory; Dr. B. Boss, director of Dudley Observatory; Professor S. Boothroyd, Cornell University; Dr. D. Brouwer, Yale University; Professor E. W. Brown, Yale University; Dr. A. J. Cannon, Harvard College Observatory; Professor W. K. Green, Amherst College; Miss M. Harwood, director of Maria Mitchell Observatory; Captain J. F. Hellweg, superintendent of Naval Observatory; Professor F. C. Jordan, director of Allegheny Observatory; Dr. P. van de Kamp,

Leander McCormick Observatory; Professor M. Kovalenko, Swarthmore College; W. D. Lambert, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; Dr. A. O. Leuschner, director of Students Observatory, University of California; Professor S. A. Mitchell, director of Leander McCormick Observatory; Rev. P. A. McNally, S.J., director of Georgetown College Observatory; J. Robertson, Naval Observatory; Dr. H. Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory; Reverend M. Selga, S.J., Manila Observatory, Manila, P. I.; P. Sollenberger, Naval Observatory; Professor F. Slocum, Wesleyan University; Dr. A. van Maanen, Mt. Wilson Observatory.

#### BOTANY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IN his address before the Alumni Association of Harvard University, President James Bryant Conant, in referring to the reorganization of the work in botany at the university, said:

One of the most pressing problems that confronts us is how to bring the various parts of this University into closer contact with each other. If we are to realize all the potentialities which are contained in our eleven faculties and our more than a dozen museums, laboratories and research units, we must strive for a more unified effort in many fields. I am under no delusion that great results in such matters can be accomplished over night. But here and there we can make progress year by year. Take the situation in regard to botany, for example. We have extraordinary assets which we have accumulated over a period of years, thanks to the labors of such great figures as Asa Gray, John S. Farlow, Charles S. Sargent and Richard T. Fisher, and the generosity of many alumni and friends. These assets include the Arnold Arboretum, the Harvard Forest, the Gray Herbarium, the Farlow Herbarium, the Botanical Museum, the Botanic Garden, laboratories for botanical research in the Bussey Institution and in the new Biological Laboratory here in Cambridge. To correlate the activities of all these institutions is obviously of great importance. Professor Oakes Ames, chairman of the Council of Botanical Collections and supervisor of the Arnold Arboretum, has performed invaluable service in this matter and over a period of years has brought about an ever-increasing harmony of interests. He now wishes to be relieved of this administrative burden and we have been fortunate enough to persuade another distinguished botanist to take it over. Dr. Merrill, director of the Botanical Garden in New York, has been appointed professor of botany and administrator of botanical collections. Under his direction we may expect a still further development of our facilities for botanical research with each unit independent but each helping the other in every way possible.

Dr. Merrill is a member of a number of American and foreign societies. He is known for his work in the taxonomy and phytogeography of the Chinese, Malaysian, Philippine and Polynesian floras, having spent twenty-two years in that part of the world.

Among other posts, he has held that of director of the Bureau of Science at Manila from 1919-1922, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, 1923-1929; director of the California Botanical Garden, 1927-1929, and professor of botany at Columbia from 1930. In the same year he succeeded Dr. N. L. Britton as director of the New York Botanical Garden. Under Dr. Merrill's régime, the herbarium at the Botanical Garden, the second largest in the United States, has been catalogued, a majority of the specimens being filed with copies of the original descriptions, references and other significant data, thus applying the methods of the library to the herbarium.

Dr. Merrill is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft, the Société Botanique de France and the Linnean Society of London. He is the author of numerous books and articles, particularly in systematic botany, and has been editor of various publications. During his active career he has described in excess of 3,000 new species of plants.

#### RECENT DEATHS

SERGIVUS P. GRACE, assistant vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories since 1928, died by suicide on June 23. Mr. Grace was fifty-nine years old.

DR. THOMAS McCRAE, since 1912 professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College, died on July 1, at the age of sixty-four years.

O. B. MARTIN, director of the agricultural extension service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, died on June 30. He was sixty-three years old. Mr. Martin went to Texas in 1927 from Washington, where he had been director of extension work of the Department of Agriculture for the southern region, comprising the cotton-growing states.

J. T. CUNNINGHAM, the marine zoologist and biologist, of the London Hospital Medical College, died on June 5 at the age of seventy-six years.

SIR JAMES WATT, Scottish forestry expert, died on July 1 at the age of ninety-three years. He had an international reputation as a seedsman and had engaged in farming in Canada on a large scale. In 1900 he became a member of the Departmental Board of Agriculture on Seeds for the British Empire. Earlier he had been employed by the government to reforest the mountains in the Isle of Man.

DANIEL NICOL DUNLOP, a director of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association and a founder of the World Power Conference, died on May 30, aged sixty-seven years.