

ern equipment, in Dr. Robinson's own terms "setting a new and much-advanced standard for herbarium housing." If it had not been for his disinterested efforts the fate of the Gray Herbarium might easily have been a tragic one, in spite of the fact that its great collections of historical material make it of basic importance to North American botany. No wonder that Dr. Robinson was deeply concerned in planning for the perpetuation of the work of his eminent predecessors, Asa Gray and Sereno Watson, and the maintenance and expansion of work that they initiated.

Dr. Robinson's work received wide recognition in his election to numerous societies at home and abroad. He served as president of the Botanical Society of America in 1900 and as president of the New England Botanical Club from 1906 to 1908. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a foreign member of the Linnaean Society, London, and of the Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica; a corresponding member of the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft, the Botanischer Verein der Provinz Brandenburg, the Société botanique de Genève, the Institut genevois and the Czechoslovakian botanical society, and an honorary member of the Chilean society of natural history.

Quiet, unassuming, courteous in the extreme, a conscientious and efficient worker, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, Dr. Robinson will be missed by his colleagues and associates at Harvard, by that large group of botanists who were trained at Cambridge during his long tenure of office, and by that larger group of American and foreign botanists who have had the privilege of working for shorter or longer periods with the treasures of the Gray Herbarium. Under Dr. Robinson's leadership the Gray Herbarium attained a spirit of "Gemütlichkeit" unequalled in any other botanical institution with which I am personally familiar. The loss of his services to botanical science is a heavy one, but he leaves behind him a magnificent record of accomplishment.

E. D. MERRILL

RECENT DEATHS

GEORGE HALL HAMILTON, formerly official astronomer at the Harvard College branch observatory at Mandeville, Jamaica, died on August 6. He was fifty-one years old.

DR. JOHN W. KEEFE, of Providence, R. I., surgeon, a founder of the American College of Surgeons, died on August 4. He was seventy-two years old.

DR. HARRY BELLEVILLE ELSBERG, instructor in surgery in charge of the department of experimental surgery in the New York University Medical School, died on August 10. Dr. Elsberg was forty-two years old.

THE death at the age of seventy-seven years is announced of Professor Edouard Jeanselme, professor emeritus in the faculty of medicine of the University of Paris and dermatologist emeritus at the Hôpital St. Louis. Dr. Jeanselme is known for his work on syphilis and leprosy, and recently for his publications on the history of medicine.

DR. LYDIA RABBINOVITCH KEMPER, for many years director of the Bacteriological Institute of the Moabite Hospital, Berlin, died on August 5 at the age of sixty-four years.

Nature reports the death of Dr. Arthur Bramley, head of the department of pure and applied science at Loughborough College, on July 19, aged fifty-six years; of Sir John MacFarland, chancellor of the University of Melbourne since 1918, a member of the Royal Commission (1899) on Technical Education, Victoria, and of the Government Board (1908) for the Protection of Aborigines, on July 22, aged eighty-four years; and of L. M. Nesbitt, who was awarded the Murchison Grant in 1931 of the Royal Geographical Society for "his difficult journey through the Danakil country of Abyssinia," on July 20, as the result of an aeroplane disaster near the San Bernino Pass, Switzerland.

MEMORIALS

A BRONZE plaque of the late Dr. Aldred S. Warthin was presented to the University of Michigan School of Medicine on June 15 by those who had been connected with the department of pathology when he was director. The memorial hangs in the West Medical Building. Dr. Warthin was associated with the university from his graduation there in 1891 until his death in 1931; since 1903 he had been professor of pathology and director of the pathological laboratory.

BUSTS of Koch and Röntgen were added to the German Museum at Munich, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its foundation. The Municipal Moabite Hospital of Berlin has been renamed Robert Koch Hospital on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his death.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes: "Just as three years ago, in commemoration of the semi-centenary of the discovery of the tubercle bacillus, so now, on May 26, in celebration of the year of Koch's death, special ceremonies were organized, which the minister of the interior and the regional health officers were invited to attend. The memorial address was delivered by Professor Kolle, who was a pupil of Koch and

whose death has since been announced. On this occasion the Robert Koch-Stiftung for the combating of tuberculosis, which had been destroyed by the period of inflation, was reestablished. The new organization, however, will be devoted not only to combating tuberculosis but also to other scientific research for the combating of infectious diseases. Donors of substantial

sums may possibly become members of the honorary committee or may be permitted to inscribe their names in the so-called Goldenes Buch. Thus far 100,000 marks (\$40,000) has been collected, and further sums are being added from time to time. The basal donation is a gift of a group of Japanese physicians, dating from 1932."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN OXFORD EXPEDITION

IN the latter part of July the Oxford University Arctic Expedition, 1935-36, arranged under the auspices of the Oxford University Exploration Club, left England to spend fourteen months on the unknown coast of the barren, ice-clad North-East Land. The expedition, according to the *London Times*, consists of the following members: A. R. Glen, glaciologist and leader; Andrew Croft, dog driver and second-in-command; A. Dunlop-Mackenzie, organizer; A. S. T. Godfrey, R.E., surveyor; R. A. Hamilton, physicist; D. B. Keith, ornithologist; R. Moss, physicist; A. B. Whatman, Royal Corps of Signals, wireless; J. W. Wright, surveyor, and Dr. A. Ballantine. The average age of the members is twenty-three years.

Of these, Croft and Godfrey were members of last year's British expedition which sledged across Greenland and southwards along the eastern mountains, while Keith and Wright have been on summer Cambridge Iceland expeditions. Glen was leader of the 1933 Oxford Spitzbergen expedition, and it was while he was in Spitzbergen during the summer of 1934 that the idea of this present expedition was suggested to him by the Swedish explorer, Dr. Ahlmann, of Stockholm. The preparations for the expedition have been decentralized so that each member of the personnel was responsible for some branch of the plans. The University of Oxford, the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society have supported the expedition generously, as have various other societies and funds, notably Oxford and Cambridge colleges. The War Office has attached two officers and has lent a great deal of wireless equipment, and scientific equipment has been lent by the Admiralty, the Meteorological Office and the National Physical Laboratory. Moreover, the expedition has been presented by British firms with goods of the estimated value of no less than £2,000.

Although only three expeditions have worked in the interior of North-East Land and although no expedition has yet wintered there, the west coast was surveyed by the Swedish-Norwegian Expedition as long ago as 1899-1901, and as one of their trigonometrical points was near North Cape it is hoped that it will be

possible to join the survey to theirs, and continue the theodolite framework eastwards, filling in the detailed topography by plane table. As the coast is open to the full strength of the Polar Sea, there is some danger that a south wind may bring down the pack ice, with heavy pressure near the coast, in which case the party will have to make all speed in running for shelter to one of the small inlets which are often to be found inside the lateral moraines of the glaciers, and which generally give safe landing places.

The sun dips below the horizon for the first time on August 23 and early in September the first of the winter storms may be expected. As two stations are to be maintained on the inland ice over the winter and into the spring of 1936, it is of the utmost importance that these should be established, with full supplies of food, fuel and equipment, by the end of August. One of the stations will be on the summit of the eastern area of inland ice at a height of some 2,600 feet, about 60 miles direct from the base hut, which will be established at Rijps Bay, midway along the north coast of North-East Land, and the other between the higher station and the base, near the edge of the ice cap on one of the glaciers flowing into Dove Bay.

Although every effort will be made to change the personnel periodically at each one of these stations, it is not improbable that the weather may make this impossible. In that event the two men at each station will have to be prepared to spend at least six months by themselves, four months of which will be total darkness, relieved only by moonlight and the periodical displays.

It is expected that the expedition will return to England on *The Polar*, the expedition ship, in September, 1936.

EXPEDITIONS OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA

THUS far this year the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has sponsored twenty-four expeditions for collecting and field work in thirteen foreign countries and various parts of the United States, according to an announcement made by Charles M. B. Cadwalader, managing director. Mr. Cad-