

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that with the completion of the primary objective of the department of vital statistics of the U. S. Bureau of the Census, namely, the extension of birth and registration areas which has been its concern for about thirty-five years, a reorganization is now under way to undertake new tasks. In 1933, on the completion of this work with the admission of Texas, the joint advisory committee of the director of the census took steps to explore the various questions and problems involved.

A report of this study points out that "while it is still necessary to work for more complete and accurate recording of the facts as to births and deaths, new and intensive efforts can be devoted now to analytical treatment of the data and to the presentation of more refined results. A better statistical basis for public health work will be laid, and for all studies of population structure and changes."

The appointment of new supervisory personnel in charge of each of three important types of functions within the division is announced, following the recommendations contained in the report. Dr. Halbert L. Dunn, formerly director of the University of Minnesota Hospitals and professor of biometry, University of Minnesota Graduate School of Medicine, Minneapolis, has been placed in charge of the division as chief statistician. He will also have charge of research and analytic developments which are also included in the report's recommendations. Dr. John Collinson, Jr., recently registrar of vital statistics for the state of Maryland and secretary, American Association of State Registration Executives, as assistant chief statistician, will be in immediate charge of the development and perfection of registration and of relations with state health officers and registration officials. A technical assistant to the chief statistician will be appointed to have immediate charge of the classification and coding of causes of death, the development of the joint manual, representation of the division respecting changes in the International List, and relations with medical schools and the medical profession. Forrest E. Linder, Ph.D., who resigned from a position with the Worcester (Mass.) State Hospital, will assist in the development of the program. Six field agents will be appointed, and the districting of the United States for this purpose is proposed. Dr. Timothy F. Murphy, the present chief statistician, has been appointed to take charge of a newly established division of religious statistics, general information and records.

THE UNITED ENGINEERING TRUSTEES

GEORGE L. KNIGHT, vice-president in charge of mechanical operations of the Brooklyn Edison Company, has been elected president of United Engineering Trustees, Inc., joint agency of the four Founder Engineering Societies. Mr. Knight succeeds Harold V. Coes, manager of the industrial department of Ford, Bacon and Davis, New York.

United Engineering Trustees, founded in 1904, administers properties valued at \$4,000,000, consisting of the Engineering Societies Building, Engineering Societies Library, and endowment funds which the corporation holds jointly for the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

H. G. Moulton, consulting engineer of 20 Pine Street, and Otis E. Hovey, consulting engineer of 71 Broadway, were named vice-presidents. Albert Roberts, of the Minerals Separation North American Corporation, New York, will serve as treasurer. John Arms, general manager of United Engineering Trustees, continues as secretary. The following trustees were chosen: H. P. Charlesworth, assistant chief engineer, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Mr. Coes; John P. Hogan, Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas, New York; J. P. H. Perry, vice-president, Turner Construction Company, New York; A. L. J. Queneau, U. S. Steel Corporation, New York; Walter Rautenstrauch, professor of industrial engineering, Columbia University; D. Robert Yarnall, Yarnall-Waring Company, Chestnut Hill, Pa.; H. R. Woodrow, vice-president, Brooklyn Edison Company.

Mr. Knight, mechanical engineer, has been connected with the Brooklyn Edison Company since 1905, and a vice-president since 1932. From 1902 to 1905 he was with the New York Edison Company. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, of which he was vice-president from 1926 to 1928, and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He was a member of the board of United Engineering Trustees from 1926 to 1932, and has been vice-president and chairman of the finance committee during the past two years. He was a director of the Engineering Foundation from 1927 to 1932.

The United Engineering Trustees exists by charter "to advance the engineering arts and sciences in all their branches, to further research in science and engineering, to maintain a free public engineering library, and to advance in any other manner the profession of engineering and the good of mankind." Through the Engineering Foundation, the Library Board, and the

Administrative Department, it aids research in engineering and the sciences, conducts the Engineering Societies Library, the largest strictly engineering library in America, and carries on numerous other activities.

MEETINGS OF GEOLOGISTS IN NEW YORK CITY

THE forty-eighth annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 26, 27 and 28, in New York City. The headquarters, place of registration, scientific sessions and exhibits will be in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Park Avenue at 50th Street.

Fellows are urged to submit without delay the titles and abstracts of papers which they wish to present at the meeting, so that the Program Committee may arrange to advantage a program of the sessions. No paper will be considered unless the title is accompanied by an abstract suitable for printing in the *Proceedings* of the society.

The address of the retiring president, Dr. Nevin M. Fenneman, professor of geology and geography in the University of Cincinnati, will be delivered on December 26 at 8 o'clock. His subject will be "Cyclic and Non-Cyclic Aspects of Erosion." A smoker will follow the address. The regular dinner of the society will be held on Friday evening, December 27, at 7 o'clock.

In conjunction with the Geological Society the Paleontological Society (Secretary, B. F. Howell, Princeton University) will hold its twenty-seventh annual meeting, and the Mineralogical Society of America (Secretary, Paul F. Kerr, Columbia Univer-

sity, New York City) will hold its sixteenth annual meeting.

Section E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 30 and 31. A joint session with the Seismological Society will be held on December 30. Papers dealing with the geology and geography of the Mississippi Valley will be welcomed for the program of December 31. Full information regarding the meeting may be obtained from the secretary of Section E, Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

In order to appear in the preliminary programs, abstracts of papers should be in the hands of the various secretaries by November 25.

RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR CHARLES LORING JACKSON, who was a member of the faculty of Harvard University for forty-four years until his resignation as professor of chemistry in 1912, died on October 28 at the age of eighty-eight years.

HARRY S. SWARTH, curator of ornithology and mammalogy of the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco for the past eight years, died suddenly on October 22. He was fifty-seven years old.

DR. ANNA LAURA HINTZE, since 1929 assistant professor of physiology and hygiene at Goucher College, died on October 27 at the age of forty-seven years.

DR. JOHN GOODMAN, professor emeritus of civil and mechanical engineering at the University of Leeds, died on October 28 at the age of seventy-three years.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIMON NEWCOMB, William Penn and Grover Cleveland were elected to the Hall of Fame of New York University in the eighth quinquennial election. The elections have been ratified by the senate of New York University and commemorative tablets and busts to the three men will be placed in the Colonnade at University Heights at ceremonies to take place probably next spring. Sixty-one votes, or a three-fifths majority, were necessary for election. Penn headed the list of candidates with eighty-three votes; Newcomb was second with seventy-eight votes and Cleveland was third with seventy-seven votes. Walter Reed, with fifty-seven votes, and Willard Gibbs, with fifty-five votes, stood next to those elected.

DR. EUGENE H. POOL, professor of clinical surgery at the Cornell Medical Center, was elected president at the San Francisco meeting of the College of Surgeons for the 1936-37 term. Dr. Emile Holman, professor

of surgery in Stanford University Hospital, was elected first vice-president, and Dr. George E. Wilson, assistant professor of surgery in the University of Toronto, second vice-president. These officers will be inducted at the end of next year's congress. Officers-elect for the 1935-36 term named at the last congress are: Dr. Donald C. Balfour, of Rochester, Minn., *president*; Dr. Arthur W. Allen, of Boston, *first vice-president*, and Dr. John A. Gunn, of Winnipeg, Canada, *second vice-president*.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the Lenin-grad Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Studies has founded a chair in pathology and physiology of the higher nervous activity. It is dedicated to Professor I. P. Pavlov, who presided at the recent International Physiological Congress. The director of studies will be Dr. M. K. Petrova, one of Dr. Pavlov's pupils and collaborators. The purpose of the institute is to en-