

copy, gravitation and acoustics. He was a genius in the construction of apparatus and made with his own hands most of that used in his researches. It is interesting to speculate what his achievement might have been had he been fortunate enough to have had at his disposal even a part of the elaborate equipment of some of his contemporaries, to say nothing of that of the present-day experimentalist.

At Brown University Carl Barus and Alpheus Packard are undoubtedly the most eminent scientists who ever occupied faculty chairs. Professor Barus was a hero-worshipper, and in his home was a "genius corner" from which pictured faces of great scientists looked down upon him. He rejoiced in contacts with youth and had the great gift, in association and writing, of capturing the love of children. The breadth of his interests and achievements was extraordinary—recall his reading of Greek tragedies in the original, his knowledge of French and Italian literatures, and the proficiency he attained in playing violin, flute, clarinet, oboe, cornet, trumpet and trombone, in addition to the piano and organ. The brilliancy of his intellect, the modesty of his bearing, the beauty of his personality and the kindness of his spirit have left most precious and inspiring memories with students and colleagues of forty years.

R. C. ARCHIBALD  
R. B. LINDSAY

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOPOLOGY

THE first International Mathematical Conference on Topology was held in Moscow from September 4 to 10 by the Mathematical Institute of the university. A similar Conference on Tensor Analysis and its applications took place a year ago, so it seems that the University of Moscow plans to hold a series of conferences on special fields in mathematics. The characteristic feature of these gatherings is that a small group of Soviet and foreign scientists come together for a few days, present full-length papers rather than the short summaries which a general mathematical congress would necessitate, and have abundant opportunity to discuss recent developments in their specialty. The conference this year was attended by a large proportion of the active topologists of the world, including the dean of topologists, Poul Heegaard, of Oslo, and also some very young men. Fifteen of the foreign delegates came from Europe and ten from America. These included van Kampen and Zariski, of Baltimore; Garrett Birkhoff, Stone and Whitney, of Cambridge; Paul Smith, of New York, and Alexander, Lefschetz, von Neumann and Tucker, of Princeton.

### RECENT DEATHS

DR. DAVID C. GILLESPIE, professor of mathematics at Cornell University, for several years editor of *The American Mathematical Monthly*, died suddenly on October 13 at the age of fifty-seven years.

DR. ALBERT E. ROUSSEL, emeritus professor of medicine in the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, died on November 2 at the age of seventy-two years.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: Dr. Anna Laura Hintze, assistant professor of physiology and hygiene at Goucher College, who died on October 27, was a native of St. Louis. Dr. Hintze received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Wisconsin. For three summers she was a member of the staff of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at Solomon's Island, Md. She was a member of the American Ecological Society, of the American Zoological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Sigma Delta Epsilon.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports the death on November 8, from the bites of ticks inoculated with typhus virus, of Dr. Jose Lemos Monteiro, of the Butantan Institute at São Paulo, and a week earlier that of his assistant, Dr. Edison Souza Dantas.

The foreign delegates were warmly welcomed and every comfort was placed at their disposal. This shows indisputably that the Soviet government wishes to promote pure as well as applied science, for topology would be difficult to justify to a strict materialist. One whole day as well as periods between the almost continuous lectures were occupied by sight-seeing excursions arranged by VOKS (the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries) with a view to exhibiting the new Russian culture. The foreign visitors received tickets for the theater festival then in progress in Moscow, and were entertained at several receptions, one of which was almost a state banquet.

The participants all agreed that the conference was extremely worth-while. They expressed their gratitude to the mathematicians and officials of the U. S. S. R., and particularly to Professor Paul Alexandroff, who had taken the leading part in planning the conference.

G. B.

### THE FIFTEENTH EXPOSITION OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

THE Fifteenth Exposition of the Chemical Industries will open at Grand Central Palace, New York,