treatment of pneumonia. This work was continued during 1933–4 and a large number of preparations were tested for toxicity, protection against lethal doses of pneumococci in animals and pneumococcocidal power in vitro. Throughout the period 1933–35 many biological and clinical data were accumulated by the medical collaborators, Dr. W. W. G. Maclachlan and his associates, Drs. H. H. Permar, John M. Johnston, Joseph R. Kenny and H. B. Burchell. To date the most interesting compounds studied, from the medical point of view, have been hydroxyethylhydrocupreine, apoquinine, ethylapoquinine and hydroxyethylapoquinine. C. L. Butler, Alice G. Renfrew and B. L. Souther, assisted by Mary Hostler, are conducting these chemical studies of cinchona derivatives under Cretcher's direction.

For six years Mellon Institute has been supporting broad investigational work in the Institute of Pathology of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, through arrangements made by Dr. C. B. Schildecker. These studies, which are being carried on by a group of scientists under the direction of Dr. R. R. Mellon, relate mainly to the treatment of pneumonia and allied pulmonary diseases and have resulted in the production of an apparently effectual antipneumococcic serum. Considerable advancement has also been made in an anti-streptococcic serum.

A Word of Appreciation

As the director of an industrial research institution, it has been my pleasant task to assist in infusing science in technology and particularly in the chemical industry. My problem has been twofold—to convince manufacturing organizations of the functions of scientific research and research management in the industries, and to aid in educating the public to a greater appreciation of the value of science. This problem is only partially solved; I can merely report progress. But the fellows of the institute have made themselves felt as an integral group in the industrial body; and their accomplishments are not only inspiring, they are facilitating greatly my own work. Thanks to these fellows, Mellon Institute is regarded generally as a strong link between the world of science and the industries. What about the future? I believe that all of us at the institute will have much greater encouragement and opportunities and that we shall be able to do many more useful things when we have the advantage of working in our new building with its splendid facilities for research in pure as well as applied science.

OBITUARY

HARRY SCHELWALDT SWARTH

By the death at his home in Berkeley, California, on October 22, of Harry Schelwaldt Swarth, at the age of fifty-seven, ornithology has been deprived of one of its most devoted and able workers.

Mr. Swarth was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 26, 1878, and was educated in the schools of that city and Los Angeles, where his parents moved in 1891. His interest in natural history manifested itself early, and under the guidance of G. Frean Morcom every opportunity was afforded for its development.

In 1896 he made a field trip to Arizona, by which he initiated the work in that state which he carried on intermittently until his death, and which resulted in his "Birds of the Huachuca Mountains," "Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona" and "Faunal Areas of Southern Arizona."

The Klondike gold rush drew him to the north in 1898, and then there was awakened his interest in this region that took him back again and again to Vancouver Island, to the Sitkan region, to the Stikine and Skeena valleys and to Atlin, where he had planned to end his days. These trips were very productive, and gave him material for many papers, notably his "Birds and Mammals of the Stikine River Region of Northern British Columbia and Southeastern Alaska," "Birds and Mammals of the Skeena River Region of Northern British Columbia," "Report on a Collection of Birds and Mammals from the Atlin Region" and (in conjunction with Major Allan Brooks) "Distributional List of the Birds of British Columbia."

During the years in which this work was being carried on, Mr. Swarth had served as assistant in the department of zoology, Field Museum (1905–08); curator of birds, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California (1908–12; 1915–27); and assistant director, Museum of History, Science and Arts, Los Angeles (1913–15).

His years at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology were very productive ones. In addition to the many papers on northern faunal areas, he published independently and in collaboration with Dr. Joseph Grinnell many papers on the birds and mammals of California and Lower California, and revised several groups. Among the more important of them was his "Revision of the Avian Genus Passerella."

The Cooper Ornithological Club was, from its inception, one of Mr. Swarth's strongest interests and, whether in Berkeley or in Los Angeles, he participated in its activities. He was treasurer of the Southern Division from 1898–1903, vice-president of the Northern Division in 1921 and president in 1922. In 1910 he became associate editor of *The Condor*, and this office he continued to fill until 1927. His "C. O. C., 1893–1928," is indispensable to one desiring a proper understanding of this organization and its activities.

Californian societies did not engross his whole attention. He was a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club, the Biological Society of Washington and the American Society of Mammalogists, and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Ornithologists' Union. He was present at meetings of the Union whenever possible, and was ever closely in touch with A. O. U. concerns. The "Ten Year Index to the Auk (1921–1930)" made its successful appearance in 1934, largely due to Mr. Swarth's painstaking editing.

In 1927 Mr. Swarth became curator of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the California Academy of Sciences, a position he held until his death. On going to the academy, he immediately gave his attention to the study of the institution's collection of Galapagos birds, and during the next few years he was occupied here and in Europe studying the problems presented by these birds. His solutions are to be found in his "Avifauna of the Galapagos Islands."

The work he had done on Galapagos material and the knowledge of the islands he acquired during a visit he paid there in 1932 on Mr. Templeton Crocker's yacht *Zaca* gave him an appreciation of the importance of protecting the various forms of animal and plant life found there. After some fruitless correspondence he finally got into communication with Robert T. Moore, of Los Angeles, whose knowledge of Ecuador and its people placed him in a position to bring to a successful conclusion the efforts for legislation to provide adequate protection for the fauna of the islands.

Mr. Swarth's labors in ornithology and mammalogy failed to crowd out his human interests. His knowledge of music and art and literature and his quiet humor made him a delightful conversationalist. He was slow in making new friends, but his sincerity and kindness, his fairness and dependability won him the warm regard of all who knew him.

M. E. DAVIDSON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. LAFAYETTE B. MENDEL, Sterling professor of physiological chemistry at Yale University, died on December 9 in his sixty-fourth year. Mrs. Mendel died less than a month ago.

WALTER BUTLER HARRIS, professor emeritus of geodesy in the engineering faculty of Princeton University, died on November 21 at the age of seventy years.

DR. CHARLES RICHET, the physiologist, professor of medicine in the University of Paris, a member of the French Academy of Medicine and the Paris Academy of Sciences, died on December 3 at the age of eighty-five years. Dr. Richet was awarded in 1913 the Nobel prize in physiology and medicine.

THE death is announced of Professor Etienne, of Nancy, known for his studies in neurology, with special reference to poliomyelitis.

MEMORIALS

TWO stone lanterns, symbolizing the Japanese conception of "eternal light," were presented to the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation on December 2 on behalf of the Electrical Association of Japan. The presentation was made by Renzo Sawada, Japanese Consul General, at the Edison Library and Laboratory in West Orange, N. J. The lanterns are more than six feet high and weigh more than 4,300 pounds each. They will remain in the custody of the foundation and will be set up temporarily in the museum adjoining the library.

PLANS are being made at Greenock, Scotland, for the celebration in January of the bicentenary of the birth of James Watt. The Watt anniversary lecture will be delivered on January 17 by Lord Rutherford and a memorial service will be held in the Town Hall on January 19, the date of Watt's birth. The schools will present a Watt pageant, and a memorial plaque will be unveiled in the Watt School of Engineering and Navigation, which stands on the site of the house where Watt was born.

THREE streets in Paris have been recently named, respectively, after M. Grancher, late professor of pediatrics in the University of Paris; M. Dejerine, the successor of Charcot, and M. Emile Roux, the former director of the Institut Pasteur.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SUBSTITUTION OF THE PRACTICAL ABSOLUTE SYSTEM OF ELECTRICAL UNITS FOR THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM[1]

IN accordance with the authority and responsibility placed upon it by the General Conference of Weights and Measures in 1933, the International Committee of Weights and Measures has decided that the actual substitution of the absolute system of electrical units for the international system shall take place on January 1, 1940.

In collaboration with the national physical laboratories, the committee is actively engaged in establishing the ratios between the international units and the corresponding practical absolute units.

[1] Approved by the International Committee of Weights and Measures at its meeting in October, 1935, at Sèvres, France.