

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

CHARLES RUSSELL RICHARDS, formerly director of Cooper Union, New York City, and of the department of science and technology of the Pratt Institute, one of the founders of the New York Museum of Science and Industry, died on February 21, at the age of seventy years.

HIRAM PERCY MAXIM, the inventor of the Maxim silencer and of other implements of warfare, died on February 17. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. MARCUS ADOLPHUS ROTHSCHILD, of the Beth Israel Hospital, New York City, specialist in heart diseases, died on February 16, at the age of forty-eight years.

DR. LYNNE HOAG, associate professor of pediatrics at the Cornell University Medical School, died on February 16. He was forty-three years old.

MISS GEORGIA COOPER, for twenty-one years a bacteriologist of the Department of Health, New York

City, died on February 19, at the age of fifty-one years.

DR. P. P. VON WEIMARN, formerly of Empress Catharina Mining Institute of St. Petersburg, more recently head of the Dispersoidological Department of the Imperial Industrial Research Institute, Osaka, Japan, died in Shanghai on June 2, 1935, after a long illness. He was well known for his contributions to colloid chemistry.

As a memorial to the late Professor James H. Breasted, who died on December 2, the building housing the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago has been named "James Henry Breasted Hall." The institute, erected at a cost of \$1,500,000, was dedicated on December 5, 1931. It houses five museum halls, administrative quarters for the expeditions of the institute in the Near East, classrooms and offices for the department of Oriental languages and literatures and for such research projects as the compilation of an Assyrian dictionary, library and storage and preparators' quarters.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

COMMISSION ON NUTRITION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

THE Expert Commission on Nutrition appointed by the Health Committee of the League of Nations met on November 25 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Those present were:

FRANCE.—Professor J. Alquier, directeur de l'Institut d'Hygiène Alimentaire, Paris; Professor L. Lapique, professor of physiology at the Laboratory of Physiology, Sorbonne, Paris.

SCANDINAVIA.—Professor Axel Hojer, generaldirektor, Medicinalstyrelsen, Vallingatan 2, Stockholm.

UNITED KINGDOM.—Professor Cathcart, professor of physiology, University of Glasgow; Professor E. Mellanby, professor of physiology and biochemistry at the University of Sheffield, and secretary-general of the Medical Research Council, London; Sir John Boyd Orr, director of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Nutrition, Reid Library, Rowett Institute, Aberdeen.

UNITED STATES.—Professor E. V. McCollum, professor of biochemistry, the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Mary Swartz Rose, Columbia University; Dr. W. Sebrell, chief of the Department of Nutrition, National Institute of Hygiene, Washington, D. C.

U. S. S. R.—Professor Sbarsky, director of the Central Nutrition Institute, Moscow.

The commission elected Professor Mellanby as chairman and Dr. McCollum as vice-chairman.

A statement was presented on the origin of the studies of the question made under the auspices of

the League of Nations. After a general exchange of views the commission decided to draft a statement on scientific principles governing dietaries of certain population groups—namely, women during pregnancy and lactation, infants, school-children and adolescents up to the age of twenty-one years.

Two subcommittees—one on energy-producing substances, under the chairmanship of Professor Cathcart (members: Professors Alquier, Lapique, Sbarsky and Sebrell, with Dr. McGee of the Ministry of Health as secretary), and the other on non-energy-producing substances (such as minerals, salts, vitamins, etc.), under the chairmanship of Professor McCollum (members: Professors Hojer and Mellanby, Sir John Boyd Orr, and Dr. Swartz Rose, with Dr. Harriet Chick of the Lister Institute as secretary)—were entrusted with the task of drawing up detailed recommendations which will be submitted to the plenary commission at a later meeting.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

ON the work of this society a correspondent writes as follows:

The Natural History Society of Maryland is an institution devoted solely to the natural sciences and is one of two institutions engaged primarily in scientific work in this state. The other, the Maryland Academy of Sciences, is a separate and distinct organization.

At present the Natural History Society of Maryland

is mainly a research institution, operating laboratories in mineralogy, paleontology, botany, marine life, entomology, herpetology, ornithology and Indian archeology. The greater part of this work is conducted in the field. It also has a broad educational program in the public and private schools, as well as in other institutions of the state. This work is conducted by a special department of education.

The organization has conducted expeditions in Haiti, Santo Domingo and the Bahamas, as well as in various parts of Maryland. Through these expeditions the society has added several new species and a genus to our fauna and has worked out, for the first time, life histories of a number of vertebrates. It has also discovered minerals hitherto unreported in Maryland and has unearthed new fossils.

At present the society is engaged in important projects of special interest to our state, a few of which will suffice to give some idea of their scope. For the past summer and fall, the department of marine research has been studying the life histories of the fish of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, in connection with the Chesapeake Biological Laboratories at Solomons Island, Maryland. The undersea work is being done by utilizing an undersea tank called the "Bentharium" devised by two of the members.

In herpetology work is going on in conjunction with the American Museum of Natural History. Studies made in southern Maryland concern the courtship of the lizards.

A survey of the fossil life of the state is being carried on vigorously. For the past two years the work has been in the Eocene deposits. The Miocene has been completed after seven years of untiring energy.

A similar survey is being made of the insect life, and a leaflet is now in preparation on the butterflies as an accompaniment to the previously published leaflet on "The Familiar Moths of Maryland."

In botany, a check list is being compiled of our trees.

A list of minerals has just been completed to be published shortly, and a like list is under way in ornithology; a check list of the birds of the State Forest Reserve is ready for publication.

For years the department of Indian archeology has been spotting our former Indian village sites, work in several of the counties having been so far completed.

The department of education, besides its program of school lectures, exhibitions, and loan material, will this spring open a Nature Trail of several miles, culminating in a Trail Side Museum in the Forest Reserve. This work is in cooperation with the State Department of Forestry and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The publications of the society include a monthly bulletin (mimeographed), proceedings and guide leaflets.

PROFESSOR AMES AND PROFESSOR JACK OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

THE following resolutions in appreciation of Professors Oakes Ames and J. G. Jack, respectively, who have retired from the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, were passed at a recent meeting of its

staff. The resolutions are signed by Alfred Rehder, associate professor of dendrology and curator of the herbarium; J. H. Faull, professor of forest pathology, and Hugh M. Raup, research associate.

Professor Ames

Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent, the first director of the Arnold Arboretum, passed away in the spring of 1927. During the more than fifty years of his directorship he had established a unique, world-renowned institution, a great arboretum for the scientific study of woody plants. Hence a heavy responsibility rested on the administrators of Harvard University when it came to choosing his successor.

The choice fell on Professor Oakes Ames and he accepted the undertaking under the title "Supervisor of the Arnold Arboretum." The outcome has more than fulfilled anticipations. Beginning with a clear understanding of the functions and the policies of the arboretum, he has both successfully maintained the traditions of the arboretum and skillfully carried through a sound, progressive program of development.

While it may not be possible at this time to measure accurately the relative values of his various accomplishments, several unquestionably take rank as of eminent importance. At the very outset he led a movement among friends of the arboretum which quickly resulted in a large increase of its endowment. This enabled him to guide the arboretum safely through the many years of severe business depression which the country was soon to experience and at the same time to accomplish a remarkable expansion of its scientific activities. Among the latter, special mention should be made of the enlargement of the scientific work of the arboretum to include research in anatomy, ecology, genetics and pathology of woody plants. Likewise there was added to the arboretum a tropical station in Cuba and there was effected a working connection with the Harvard Forest. Finally, a warm, cooperative spirit was cultivated, expressed in part by the contribution of various courses to Harvard College that bound the arboretum more closely than ever before to the other biological interests of the university.

Noteworthy among other features of Professor Ames's incumbency as supervisor have been construction of new greenhouses and a laboratory for plant pathology on the Bussey grounds, the addition of many new plants to the outdoor collections and to the herbarium, the improvement of the physical condition of the grounds, a great enrichment of the library, a widening of the scope of the *Journal*, and the inauguration of a handsome series of memoirs under the title "Contributions from the Arnold Arboretum." Besides all of these there are certain intangibles that can only best be appreciated by those so fortunate as to be directly associated with him.

We, the staff of the Arnold Arboretum, gratefully express our recognition of these many services rendered by Professor Ames. We cherish the recollections of his supervisorship and our happy associations with him. We shall keenly miss the presence of his genial personality and the advantages of his wise counsels, and regret that