

became the greatest of his hobbies. His friends will always remember more vividly their visits to his summer home. There, among his flowers, with the sea almost at his doorstep, he was the perfect host, entertaining, witty and sympathetic.

GREGORY P. BAXTER
FRANCIS G. PEABODY
EDWIN H. HALL

RECENT DEATHS

EDGAR SYDENSTRICKER, scientific director of the Milbank Memorial Fund, died on March 19, at the age of fifty-four years.

DR. JAMES MORRIS PAGE, until his recent retirement professor of mathematics and dean of the University of Virginia, died on March 12, at the age of seventy-two years. He had been connected with the University of Virginia for thirty-eight years.

A. H. HOOKER, technical director of the Hooker Electrochemical Company at Niagara Falls, died on March 9, in his seventy-first year.

DR. WILLIAM H. BERGTOLD, formerly professor of pathology at the University of Buffalo and at the University of Denver, also known as an ornithologist, died on March 19 at the age of seventy years.

DR. C. LLOYD MORGAN, professor emeritus in the University of Bristol, who was the first vice-chancellor of the university, died on March 6 at the age of eighty-four years. Dr. Morgan had filled the chair of geology and biology at University College, Bristol, from 1883 to 1887, when he became principal. He was appointed chancellor in 1910. This post he relinquished after a few months and was then appointed to fill the new chair of psychology and ethics. This chair he held until his retirement in 1919.

THE death is announced of Dr. Ettore Marchiafava, senator and professor emeritus of pathologic anatomy at the University of Rome.

PROFESSOR J. P. KHOMENKO, of Leningrad, known for his work on the Cenozoic paleontology and stratigraphy of the USSR, died on August 7, 1935, on an expedition to Sakhalin Island.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

It is planned at McGill University to reduce the time required for the courses in medicine from five to four years, without diminishing the actual time spent in the college. According to the official announcement, the new plan provides that

(1) The minimum period of professional training required by the independent practise of medicine shall be five years including, (a) four years of medical study in the university leading to the degree of M.D., C.M., and (b) one year of internship in an approved hospital or one year of further medical study in the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University or of another medical school approved by it.

(2) A certificate that his medical education is completed and that he is eligible to sit for the examination of a licensing board shall not be issued to any graduate until the university is in possession of satisfactory evidence that he has completed the full requirements.

In a further statement it is pointed out that:

The effect of this action will be to replace the present undergraduate course, which spreads over five academic years of seven and-a-half months each, by a course covering four years, each with a nine-month session and to bring the year of hospital internship within the five-year period of training which is now required before license in 28 provinces and states and which the faculty believes to be a necessary part of every doctor's education. The new regulation provides that this year shall be spent as an interne in an approved hospital, or in further study in

the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University or of another medical school approved by it. It is to be expected that in the majority of cases the postgraduate interne will be chosen, since it is the most direct and most economical pathway to practise. Those who travel this route will be able to accomplish in five years what it now takes six to do and will thus save the cost of tuition, board and lodging for one year.

To those who prefer to devote the fifth year to further study in fields in which they are especially interested, several alternatives are open, since the time may be spent in advanced work along scientific or clinical lines either at McGill or abroad. An opportunity is thus offered to those, for example, who wish to obtain a British qualification and who may spend the graduate year in an English hospital school preparing for the examination of one of the British Licensing Bodies.

With the progress of medical science and an increasing social consciousness of the need for the preservation of health, there is an insistent demand for an even more thorough training than has been required in the past. In its reorganized course the university has aimed at meeting this demand without increasing the long and arduous period of preparation, while actually decreasing the cost to the student.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON THE NEW ERGOT ALKALOID

THE Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association has made the following report on the new ergot alkaloid:

During the past year, communications from four laboratories have been published reporting the isolation of a new oxytocic alkaloid from ergot. Until recently there has been doubt as to whether or not the principles reported by these laboratories were identical (termed "Ergotocin" by Kharasch, "Ergometrine" by Dudley and Moir, "Ergobasine" by Stoll and "Ergostetrine" by Thompson). In a jointly signed statement (SCIENCE, February 28) Kharasch, King (acting for Dudley), Stoll and Thompson say there is "no doubt that the alkaloid obtained in the four different laboratories was the same substance. . . ."

It is necessary, therefore, that a suitable *non-proprietary* name which is *not therapeutically suggestive* be adopted for the new alkaloid. Not one of the several names that have been proposed by the discoverers complies with these requirements. The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, in session March 14, therefore determined to adopt the new, non-proprietary name "Ergonovine" (ergo-nov-ine). The council concedes to the discoverer of a product the right to the use of a proprietary name. It can not, however, accept more than one proprietary name because of the confusion to which such practice gives rise. In the present case several different names have been proposed. It seems impossible to establish undisputed priority. The council has decided therefore that it would recognize no proprietary name.

The *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes editorially as follows:

Last year the isolation of a new alkaloid from ergot was reported within a relatively short period from four different laboratories, two in the United States, one in England and one in Switzerland. The new substance was found in each case to be different in its properties from the previously known alkaloids of ergot; its oxytocic effects were much more prompt and more lasting than those of ergotoxine or ergotamine and the required dosage was smaller. Some discrepancies in the reported physical and chemical properties of the material isolated by the different investigators led to doubt as to the identity of the four products; four names were proposed, ergometrine (Dudley and Moir), ergotocin (Kharasch and Legault), ergobasine (Stoll and Burekhardt) and ergostetrine (Thompson). Owing to the confusion entailed by the doubt as to the identity of the four products so designated, workers in the four laboratories commendably agreed to exchange specimens and to compare the various products. Kharasch, King (acting for the late Dr. Dudley), Stoll and Thompson have now reported that their "comparisons of the melting points and mixed melting points of the four alkaloids and of certain of their salts, and of their optical activities in different solvents in cases where sufficient material was available, leave [them] in no doubt that the material obtained in the four different laboratories was the same substance, and that the four names given to it are synonyms." Elsewhere in this issue the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry reports the adoption at its annual session on March 14 of a new non-proprietary name for this alkaloid,

"ergonovine." This new term was chosen instead of one of those already proposed because of the difficulty of determining priority and because of possible conflict of the other names with the policy of the council governing nomenclature. The agreement among the investigators concerned as to the identity of the alkaloid and the adoption of a single name to replace the four previously in use (and others employed in addition by commercial firms) should now prevent further confusion.

CONSERVATION IN COLORADO

A CONFERENCE was called on February 28 by Governor Johnson, of Colorado, to which were invited authorities on conservation of the federal and state governments to discuss a plan to establish a game refuge in South Park, which would be designed to preserve one of Colorado's natural beauty spots, provide a sanctuary for all types of native game and furnish a playground for the entire United States.

Preliminary plans call for the setting aside of approximately 549,000 acres in the heart of Park County and the addition to it of 851,000 acres now incorporated in the Pike National Forest. Natural conditions in South Park would be restored and the areas stocked with buffalo, elk, deer, beaver and other forms of wildlife.

The area includes South Platte and Arkansas drainage areas on the west, the Continental Divide on the north, Kenosha Pass on the northeast, the Puma and Tarryall Hills on the east and the division between the Platte and Arkansas watersheds on the south and southeast.

Approximately 59 per cent. of the 549,000 acres proposed for the refuge is now privately owned, while the remaining 41 per cent. is owned by the federal, state or county governments. The scenic beauty of the park is unsurpassed, and as a refuge it would remain unspoiled. Although surveys have not been completed, it is estimated the 1,400,000 acres could support at least 60,000 head of big game animals and countless smaller animals. It is believed that the land could be withdrawn, water rights secured and the refuge actually started for approximately two and a half million dollars.

THE SEATTLE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE twentieth meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and associated societies will be held under the auspices of the University of Washington, Seattle, from June 16 to 20. The number of societies proposing to join in this meeting is substantially greater than in that of any previous meeting of the division. The names of the societies with the names and addresses of the persons in charge of the programs follow: