"understand one another's speech," began to disband and go their several ways. It is no wonder then that the annals of some of our local academies of science have become disappointing records of dwindling membership and declining interest.

There is, however, a greater need of such academies of science as the one which you are now inaugurating than at any other period in our country's history. Such organizations may be assured of a lasting success provided they serve not only the wants of its members but also the cultural needs of the civic communities in which they are placed. Science has its cultural side as much as literature and art, but it must first be humanized, and the humanization of science consists simply in making it intelligible and interesting to every man, woman and child.

Just one hundred years ago our great American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, gave a lecture upon the "Humanity of Science," and one of the means which he recommended for giving the sciences more of a vital human interest was a study of the history of the sciences. The story of the struggles, disappointments, trials and successes of each great man of science carries with it lessons and inspirations which appeal to every child. The public should be informed not only about the history of science in general, but its interest should be aroused in the past contributions to science by the citizens of its own community and state. In the stimulation of such interest the academies of science in our different states can perform a most useful service.

The interest of the younger generation in scientific matters must also be aroused. A half century ago many of our schools had natural history clubs known as Agassiz Associations which by excursions and meetings were very useful in awakening a love for science among its youthful members. Our various state academies of science might well foster the establishment of similar clubs in our schools to-day. In fact, the establishment of junior academies of science and of high school science clubs has been actively sponsored in recent years by several of the more progressive state academies of science. Awards of diplomas of merit to young students for deserving essays upon scientific subjects would lend great encouragement to this movement. Such efforts are not wholly disinterested, for the academies later on can count upon these clubs as recruiting grounds for increasing their own memberships.

The program, ladies and gentlemen, of this first meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences augurs well for the future of your organization. Its success will be measured not only by the immense satisfaction that you will derive from the mutual exercise of the cooperative spirit, but it will be determined to a vastly greater degree by the services which you can render to the cultural needs of the community, the state and the nation.

OBITUARY

JULIUS ARTHUR NIEUWLAND

JULIUS ARTHUR NIEUWLAND was born at Hansbeke, near Ghent, Belgium, on February 14, 1878. He died unexpectedly of an acute heart attack in the chemical laboratory of Catholic University, Washington, D. C., on June 11, 1936. A few days previously, at the annual commencement of the University of Notre Dame, he appeared in the best of health and spirits.

His parents moved to South Bend, Ind., when Nieuwland was about three years of age. He grew up in the city much as any other boy. He collected stamps and birds' eggs; but, unlike so many other naturalists, subsequently never took any interest in birds. He attended a local German parochial school; was graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1899; was ordained priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1903. He studied botany under Professor E. L. Greene and chemistry under Professor John J. Griffin at Catholic University, Washington, D. C., from which he received a Ph.D. degree in 1904.

From that time until 1918 Father Nieuwland was professor of botany at the University of Notre Dame. From 1918 until his death he was professor of organic chemistry, serving as dean of the College of Science during the years 1918 to 1922. He served as curator of the University Herbarium, of the Greene Herbarium and of the Greene Botanical Library. While he was professor of botany he used to make sets of histologic preparations and sell them, the proceeds being used in buying books for his library, which contains many old and rare volumes.

His interest in botany, while broad, was mainly devoted to the taxonomic study of the flowering plants and ferns. He never lost his interest in these groups. He often used to point out places in South Bend that once were swamps and good botanical collecting grounds, which are now well-paved city streets. His herbarium numbers about 20,000 specimens, mostly collected by his own hands, and from various parts of North America. Wherever he went he usually found time to send back at least a few plants. He was a conservationist in the broad sense; and, if there were but a single plant in an unusual locality, he was always careful to take just enough of the plant for identification and leave the rest for propagation. He deprecated the promiscuous draining of swamps and

the interference with the laws of nature by the introduction of alien species or extermination of native ones, whether of plants or animals.

A corollary of his botanical studies was the founding of the *American Midland Naturalist,* a journal devoted primarily to the natural history of the prairie states. In May, 1934, it celebrated its silver jubilee and has grown from volumes covering two years each of about 300 pages to yearly volumes of nearly 1,000 pages.

His chemical studies were devoted mainly to the synthesis of organic compounds from acetylene, which included the fundamental researches underlying the synthesis of Duprene, the outstanding synthetic rubber of to-day. Another product of his acetylene researches was developed into Lewisite by the Chemical Warfare Service, under the direction of Professor G. N. Lewis. Father Nieuwland was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the American Chemical Society, serving as secretary and as chairman of the Organic Division; the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft; the British Chemical Society; the Biological Society of Washington; the Washington Academy of Science, and the Indiana Academy of Science, of which he was president in 1934. He served as counselor of the St. Joseph Valley Section of the American Chemical Society for many years. He was the recipient of several medals for his work in chemistry, the most important being the Nichols medal, awarded by the New York Section in 1935. He was much pleased with the Gregor Mendel medal from Villanova College, with its ornamentation of peas.

An accomplished linguist, he spoke his own native Flemish, German, some Italian, was well versed in French, Latin and Greek. It is doubtful if there was a plant name the etymology of which in Greek and Latin was not thoroughly understood by him. This was often a chief subject of conversation on long automobile trips. He was something of a musician, knew much of classical music and was no mean performer on the guitar.

He had a happy disposition and was singularly modest. He liked children, and nearly always found a ready coin for them. He displayed a keen sense of humor, was quick at repartee, clever at paraphrasing verses and making bons mots. To find him to take on a botanical trip on Sundays or holidays, one nearly always sought him in his laboratory. He never seemed happier than in some wet meadow or tamarack bog digging up a new or unusual plant.

He will be sadly missed by his fellow members in the Indiana Academy of Science, the American Chemical Society and the University of Notre Dame that he loved and served so well.

M. W. LYON, JR.

SOUTH BEND, IND.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. SAMUEL H. WEBSTER, head of the department of civil engineering of the Rhode Island State College, died on June 22. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. JOHN JAMES SCHOONHOVEN, chairman of the department of zoology of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, died on June 27 in his seventy-second year.

Nature writes: "The death of Sir Frederick Macmillan on June 1, at eighty-four years of age, ends a remarkable triumvirate in the history of the firm of Messrs. Macmillan and Company, Ltd., the publishers of *Nature* ever since it was founded by them and Sir Norman Lockyer in November, 1869. At that time the firm consisted of Alexander Macmillan, who died in 1896, and George Lillie Craik, who died ten years later. During their lifetime three other partners were admitted — Frederick Orridge Macmillan (1874), George Augustin Macmillan (1879) and Maurice Crawford Macmillan (1883). By a most tragic set of circumstances, these three directors have all passed into silence within a period of three months. George Macmillan died on March 3, Maurice Macmillan on March 30 and on the day of his brother's funeral Sir Frederick slipped on the floor of his dressing-room and this accident led to his death."

THE following deaths are also announced in *Nature:* Professor Francis Cavers, formerly professor of biology in University College, Southampton, author of text-books on elementary botany, on May 26. Sir Archibald Denny, Bart, ship-builder and engineer, formerly president of the Institute of Marine Engineers and in 1918–27 chairman of the British Engineering Standards Association, on May 29, aged seventy-six years.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that a monument erected on the grave of Dr. Perry H. Millard, the first dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School at Minneapolis, was dedicated in Fairview Cemetery, Stillwater, on June 7. In addition, a suitable plaque is to be placed in the university and surplus funds collected for the memorial are to be turned into the general fund of the Medical Alumni Association. The principal address at the dedication ceremonies was delivered by Dr. James T. Christian, of St. Paul. Other speakers included Dr. William J. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., a regent of the university; Dr. Elias P. Lyon, dean of the Medical School; Dr. Guy S. Ford, dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Edward A. Meyerding, secretary of the Minnesota State Medical Association.

THE Royal Scottish Geographical Society proposes