vation pointing the way to the discovery of diphtheria antitoxin, according to a delegation of Frenchmen who sought Sewall's laboratory at Michigan twenty years later.[2]

In 1888, Dr. Sewall received an honorary M.D. degree from the University of Michigan. Symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis asserted themselves in 1885 and forced Sewall to leave Ann Arbor. During the winter of 1889, he became first resident physician, under the founder, Dr. Edward L. Trudeau, at the Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium, where Dr. and Mrs. Sewall occupied one of the first little one-room cottages. In 1890, Denver, Colorado, became his permanent residence, where he remained for the rest of his life. He brought honor to Colorado scientifically and became one of its most beloved physicians. He served as assistant health commissioner of Denver from 1891 to 1893, and secretary of the Colorado State Board of Health from 1893 to 1899.

When the National Board of Medical Examiners was established, he served this organization from 1915 to 1919. He received an M.D. degree from the University of Denver in 1889 and was professor of physiology in the Denver and Gross College of Medicine from 1890 to 1908. In 1912, the University of Michigan conferred on him the honorary Sc.D. degree, as did his Alma Mater, Wesleyan University, in 1926. From 1911 to 1918, Dr. Sewall occupied the chair of professor of medicine, at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, being emeritus professor since 1920. In 1916, he served as president of the American Association of Physicians; in 1924, president of the Colorado State Medical Society; and in 1927, president of the National Tuberculosis Association. In 1917, he became a member of the editorial staff of the *American Review of Tuberculosis*, the foremost tuberculosis journal in the world, a post he occupied from its inception on. In 1919, he became intimately associated with the research at the National Jewish Hospital at Denver, Colorado, serving as a member of the local and national advisory boards and as an active investigator also. His conscientiousness and industry are attested by a bibliography of over 123 original scientific articles, in later years devoted mainly to tuberculosis, climatology, immunity. In 1930, Dr. Sewall received the Trudeau Medal for his scientific investigations in tuberculosis, the first time this honor had been bestowed west of the Atlantic Seaboard states. In 1931, he was awarded the George Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Sewall was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1921, contributing to the success of sectional and association meetings.

Dr. Henry Sewall's life was dynamic and purposeful. He was beloved by patient and colleague alike. He was always welcome into that rare fellowship of those who understand. His intimate professional and scientific friends ranked from those crowned with success to those struggling for an education. He was a profound teacher whose lessons were never to be forgotten, founded as they were on scientific observations and knowledge. His demands for work were meager, content with a bench or room so long as his colleagues were there for communion. He didn't believe in retirement while there was work still to be done. In spite of his busy life, he always had time to aid charitable causes. Dr. Sewall's high place in the world of science and medicine will long remain vacant as a testimonial to the stature of him who last resided there.

H. J. CORPER

DENVER, COLO.

RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH BREINL, of the University of Praha, died on July 29 from an infection of Rocky Mountain fever. He was expecting to lecture on the subject before the International Bacteriological Congress in London. Professor Breinl taught bacteriology at Harvard University in 1925.

DR. AUBREY C. GRUBB, professor of physical chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan since 1921, known for his work on electrical activation of hydrogen and nitrogen gases, died on July 29.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HIGH VOLTAGE LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

THE High Voltage Laboratory of Queen Mary College of the University of London was opened recently by the Earl of Athlone. The laboratory is the first in England to combine facilities for original research with facilities for training students.

The London *Times* writes:

Great Britain, in comparison with American and Continental Europe, has been ill equipped to provide the specialized training required for the study of problems in connection with the transmission of electrical energy at high voltages, and it is peculiarly fitting that the first great step in this country towards improving that position should be associated with Queen Mary College, where the high standard maintained by the electrical engineering department has led to its being entrusted with much

[2] Victor C. Vaughan, "A Doctor's Memories," p. 211. Publisher, Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1926.

of the research work undertaken by the British Committee of the International Electro-Technical Commission.

The new laboratory will have two main functions—to give instruction in existing knowledge concerning high voltage technology to engineering graduates, and to provide research facilities to extend existing knowledge on the same subject. In addition, the facilities of the laboratory will be available to research organizations for approved work, and it is hoped that advantage will be taken of this opportunity in the same way as the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association have utilized the resources of the college in the past.

The main laboratory has been constructed by removing from an existing building in the college a floor that divided it. Its main dimensions are 80 feet by 40 feet by 38 feet high, and the galleries of the original building now serve as excellent observation areas. In view of the layout of the laboratory, where five sources of very high voltage exist in various parts of the building, it has been necessary to provide a complete system of interlocked doors and screens so that, when once the occupants have vacated the danger area and the gates have been shut, no one can possibly enter it again without automatically cutting off the power. This has been achieved by means of electrical and mechanical interlocking devices arranged so as to permit the maximum use of each item of the equipment with the minimum of interference with the remainder of the laboratory.

Lectures on high voltage technology at the college will be supplemented by laboratory work.

FOUNDATION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

AUGUST 10 is the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution by Act of Congress on August 10, 1846, for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

"That date," says a statement issued from the Smithsonian Institution, "may be regarded as highly significant when considered from the viewpoint of nine decades later and of a world whose material life has been revolutionized by scientific research." The statement continues:

> Few foresaw, even dimly, such an outcome in 1846. Pure science then was almost exclusively a hobby of individuals. Its pursuit was confined largely to gentlemen of means and leisure. In institutions of higher education it was far outranked by the so-called humanities.
>
> Among those with at least a dim foreboding of the wonders ahead was an inconspicuous English scientist, who had died at Genoa in 1829. Before he died he concluded an act that was to immortalize him as one of the world's great benefactors of mankind. He incorporated in his will a clause leaving his entire fortune to the Government of the United States, in case his nephew died intestate, "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."
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> This gentleman was James Smithson, a natural son of the Duke of Northumberland. He was a student of chemistry and mineralogy whose early promise led to his election to the Royal Society of Great Britain shortly after his graduation from Oxford. The value of the estate that finally came to our National Government amounted to about $550,000. With this was set up by far the largest institution, up to that time, devoted to the pursuit of pure science without regard to immediate and obvious utility.
>
> Thus was the support of science placed on a new basis. Endowed research institutions, some of much greater wealth, have sprung up over Europe and America since then, with the rapid realization that the shortest road to progress is the discovery of the basic laws of nature and that this can best be done by adequately supported, coordinated programs of research.

The terms of the Smithson will, in the opinion of Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, are ideal for such a purpose. So rapid is the progress of science that a problem that may seem of supreme importance to-day is outmoded to-morrow, and funds left for its pursuit exclusively become involved in serious complications. "For the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men" allows plenty of leeway, regardless of the developments of the future. The words will be as applicable a thousand years hence as to-day. Smithson's own words were indeed prophetic: "The best blood of England flows in my veins; on my father's side I am a Northumberland, on my mother's I am related to kings, but this avails me not. *My name shall live in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumberlands and the Percys are extinct and forgotten.*"

REGIONAL STATIONS OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE Bankhead-Jones Act contains a provision for the establishment and operation of regional research laboratories by the Secretary of Agriculture. The *Experiment Station Record* reports that these laboratories are to be set up in the major agricultural regions, and under their jurisdiction research supplementing that otherwise provided for may be conducted "into laws and principles underlying basic problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects; research relating to the improvement of, the quality of, the development of new and improved methods of production of, distribution of and new and extended uses and markets for agricultural commodities and by-products and manufactures thereof; and research relating to the conservation, development and use of land and water resources for agricultural purposes."