Bureaus of Chemistry and Soils, Animal Industry, Plant Industry and Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture joining with Dr. Franke in the investigations. In the spring of 1931 Dr. W. O. Robison, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, found in toxic wheat 10–12 p.p.m. of selenium, and he also found selenium to be present in the soils of the affected areas. Franke, by feeding selenates and selenites, was able to produce the typical symptoms of the disease so that the etiological factor was thoroughly demonstrated. His studies, however, indicated that the selenium complex in the grain was, in some instances at least, definitely more toxic than the inorganic selenates or selenites, and he accordingly turned a part of his attention to an attempt to isolate an organic selenium compound which was responsible for the toxicity. Unfortunately this work is left uncompleted, but he did adduce evidence that indicates strongly the presence of such a compound, probably one in which the sulphur of a normally occurring compound has been replaced by selenium.

In the nine years that Dr. Franke directed the chemical work in the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station he made a major contribution to agricultural science and accomplished far more than many men accomplish in a lifetime of endeavor. Twenty-two papers under his authorship had already appeared in print, and the experimental work on several more had been completed and manuscripts were in the process of preparation. In spite of these evidences of scientific productivity there remains considerable unpublished data and many problems which were only begun or projected.

Not only has agricultural science lost one of its most promising research workers, but those of us who knew Dr. Franke intimately feel the additional loss of a sincere and cooperative friend. He had a forceful personality, but he was always ready to contribute as much as or more than he received. His friendships were the sort that grow with time. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and a son, Royden, now a student of aeronautical engineering at the University of Virginia.

ROSS AIKEN GORTNER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

CHARLES A. WILLSON, dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee since 1923, died on October 9 at the age of fifty-eight years.

DR. JOHN PEASE BABCOCK, formerly deputy commissioner of fisheries for British Columbia, died on October 12 at the age of eighty years.

THE death at the age of forty-nine years is announced of A. E. Clarence Smith, senior lecturer in physical chemistry at University College, Southampton, England, known for his work in photomicrography.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the work of Dr. Charles Henry Fernald, one of the founders of economic entomology in this country and an authority in economic entomology, was celebrated at Massachusetts State College on October 16. Dr. Fernald founded the department of entomology at Massachusetts State College in 1886. He died at Amherst in 1921. Dr. W. E. Britton, state entomologist of Connecticut, presided at the formal exercises. The speakers were President Hugh P. Baker, of the Massachusetts State College; A. F. Burgess, of Greenfield, entomologist with the Federal Moth Control Laboratory, who has carried on the work of gipsy moth control begun by Dr. Fernald in 1886, and Dr. E. Porter Felt, director of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM IN GREAT BRITAIN

IT is reported in *Nature* that the British General Medical Council has adopted certain resolutions in regard to professional education. These will come into operation on January 1, 1938, and include the following:

In the pre-registration requirements, it is laid down that every applicant for registration as a student by the council or for admission to the medical curriculum proper should have passed (*a*) a recognized preliminary examination in general education as laid down in the regulations of the council; and in addition (*b*) an examination or examinations conducted or recognized by one of the licensing bodies.

The subjects to be included under (*b*) are:

(1) One or two subjects of general education, other than chemistry, physics or biology, at a standard higher than that of the preliminary examination, for those who have received their instruction in these subjects before entering universities, university colleges or medical schools.

(2) Chemistry (theoretical and practical), the elementary principles of general and physical chemistry, and of the chemical combination of elements, including carbon.

(3) Physics (theoretical and practical), the elementary mechanics of solids and fluids, the elements of heat, light, sound, electricity and magnetism.

The examination in biology (theoretical and practical) may be taken either before or after registration as a student.

About a year ago a conference of representatives