tration of his democratic university. He was called upon incessantly and was a most patient and useful counselor. It is only natural to assume that his misgivings in devoting so much time to this type of work were assuaged by his feeling that he was helpful, and he surely had some interest in this type of intellectual activity. His sense of duty was no doubt an important factor.

To an outside observer Professor Hyde's academic career may have seemed of about the same nature of that of the usual college professor, more successful in some respects, less so perhaps in others. Only a few were familiar with a less apparent versatility which when fully realized marked him as unusual. There was in him a strain of the artistic and an even more striking strain of the philosophical. In the former connection he was especially interested in the use of lines. He studied intensively available types of drawings and etchings, partly from an inherent interest, partly to enable him to produce with the desired degree of satisfaction the graphic representations of his work. The drawings in his work on the Waverly Formation illustrate his success in such portrayals.

To a few he directly revealed his philosophical bent. Others appreciated this from his lectures and his conversation. Practical results of this bent are seen in some of his informal essays, in his annotations in his books, his lectures, the conferences he held with students in discussing their religious problems. However his intense devotion to these fields of thought, revealed more clearly after his death, comes as a surprise to some even who knew him well.

Especially noteworthy among his interests was book collecting. One lot, collected no doubt with a sense of humor, he called his "monkey books," a lot of specious undisciplined writings aimed at evolution. A serious and larger collection includes books which he used to clarify his ideas not on what one might call "Conflict of Science and Theology," but rather on the consonance of scientific and spiritual interests. His most valuable collection is an outstanding set of biographies and autobiographies of scientists and naturalists.

HIPPOLYTE GRUENER

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

PROFESSOR STANLEY ROSSITER BENEDICT, for many years head of the department of biochemistry at Cornell University Medical College, died suddenly on December 21. He was fifty-two years old.

DR. MARSHALL AVERY HOWE, director of the New York Botanical Garden, died on December 24 at the age of sixty-nine years.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, professor of metallurgy at Columbia University, died suddenly on December 16 at the age of sixty years.

DR. J. K. FOTHERINGHAM, reader in ancient astronomy and chronology in the University of Oxford and honorary assistant in the University Observatory since 1925, died at Dumbarrow on December 12 at the age of sixty-two years.

JOHN NICHOLAS VROOMAN VEDDER, professor of thermodynamics at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., died on December 26. He was sixty-three years old.

A PORTRAIT of the late Charles Proteus Steinmetz, of the General Electric Company, was unveiled on December 14 in the assembly hall of the Steinmetz High School, Chicago. The portrait is the gift of the General Electric Company. It was accepted on behalf of the school by Mayor Kelly and by Principal D. F. O'Hearn.

ACCORDING to a wireless dispatch to *The New York Times*, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Roald Amundsen's discovery of the South Pole was marked on December 14 by a meeting in the polar museum aboard Dr. Fridtjof Nansen's vessel *Fram*, in which tablets were unveiled in memory of Nansen and Captain Otto Sverdrup by Knud Ringnes, chairman of the *Fram* committee, and in memory of Amundsen by Knut Doaaas.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

THE British Commonwealth Scientific Conference met recently in London, under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Howell Thomas. The London *Times* reports that the commonwealth delegates were impressed by the effectiveness of the system administered by the executive council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux and favored the continuance and the extension of this system.

In his address Sir Charles pointed out that after having been on trial for seven years this cooperative commonwealth scheme may be said to be firmly established on a permanent basis, and that it shows "two main factors which underlie successful inter-imperial scientific cooperation. One is that the objective must be clearly defined, strictly limited in scope and of a nature which appeals to all units of the commonwealth. The second is that the executive body must owe allegiance to no particular government, but be strictly rep-