

Engineering Council for Professional Development. A department of chemical engineering has been recently established.

N. S. H.

### RECENT DEATHS

LAWRENCE BRUNER, since 1895 professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska, died on January 30 at the age of eighty years.

JOHN H. GREGORY, since 1921 professor of civil and sanitary engineering at the Johns Hopkins University, died on January 18 at the age of sixty-two years.

JOHN ALEXANDER MACWILLIAM, until his retirement in 1927 with the title emeritus professor of physiology at the University of Aberdeen, died on January 13 at the age of seventy-nine years.

THE death is announced at the age of sixty-eight years of Percy Andrew Ellis Richards, for over twenty years professor of chemistry at Queen's College, London, and lecturer in chemistry and metallurgy at the Royal Dental Hospital.

THOMAS CROOK, since 1928 principal of the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute, London, died on January 6.

ORSO MARIO CORBINO, formerly professor of experimental physics at the University of Messina and later at the University of Rome, died on January 23 at the age of sixty years. In 1920 he was appointed a senator and in 1921 became Minister of Education in Premier Bonomi's cabinet. After the rise to power of Mussolini, he served for two years, 1923 and 1924, as Minister of National Economy.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the Founders' Day celebration of the University of Wisconsin on February 6, which commemorated the eighty-seventh anniversary of the opening of the first class of the university, special honor was paid to Dr. Edward Asahel Birge, president emeritus of the university, who is now eighty-five years old. Hundreds of alumni took part in the celebration by attending dinner meetings which were held in all parts of the country. At Madison a testimonial was presented to Dr. Birge by the alumni association in recognition of his long service to the university and the state. Dr. Birge went to the state university in 1875 as an instructor in natural history. He was professor of zoology from 1879 to 1911, and served as dean of the College of Letters and Science from 1891 to 1918. He was acting president of the university from 1900 to 1903, and in 1918, following the death of President Charles R. Van Hise, he was elected president. He served until 1925, when he retired as president emeritus.

THE council of the Geological Society, London, has awarded the Wollaston Medal to Professor Waldemar Lindgren, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for his researches concerning the mineral structure of the earth, and especially concerning the problems of mesasomatism, contact ore-deposits and the application of physical chemistry to ore-deposition.

AN award for distinguished service to agriculture was made to Maurice Adin Blake, professor of agriculture at Rutgers University, at the opening session of the State Agricultural Convention in the Assembly Chamber at the Capitol on January 26. Professor Blake has developed some 100 new varieties of peaches.

THE Bulgarian Order of Civil Merits with Golden Crown has been conferred by King Boris III on Dr.

J. C. Th. Uphof, of Orlando, Fla., in recognition of his researches in botany. These have been published in the English, French, German, Dutch and Spanish languages.

THE British Royal Astronomical Society has awarded its Gold Medal to Dr. Harold Jeffreys, university reader in geophysics at the University of Cambridge, for his researches into the physics of the earth and other planets and for his contributions to the study of the origin and age of the solar system.

DR. VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON was elected president of the Explorers' Club, New York City, at a meeting held on February 3. Dr. Walter Granger, whom Dr. Stefansson succeeds as president, was elected *first vice-president*; Lowell Thomas was named *second vice-president*; H. R. Forbes, *third vice-president*; H. E. Winship, *treasurer*, and Joseph Robinson, *secretary*.

DR. ROGER W. TRUESDAIL, of the Truesdail Laboratories, Los Angeles, has been elected president of the Sigma Xi Club of Southern California, and J. A. Hartley, president of the Braun Corporation, Los Angeles, has been elected secretary-treasurer.

At the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences, held on January 21, the following officers were announced for 1937: *President*, Charles Thom, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Corresponding secretary*, Nathan R. Smith, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Recording secretary*, Oscar S. Adams, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Treasurer*, Henry G. Avers, Coast and Geodetic Survey; to the *Board of Managers* for three years, F. G. Brickwedde, National Bureau of Standards, and J. F. Couch, Bureau of Animal Industry; *Non-resident vice-presidents*, Thomas Barbour, Cambridge, Mass., and P. W. Bridgman, Cambridge,