

Botanical Society of America, Ecological Society, Washington and Iowa Academies of Science, Sigma Xi, national and state president of the Izaak Walton League, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geological Society of America, Botanical Society of Bohemia and Natural History Society of Prague. His passing is an irretrievable academic and civic loss to the state. He was the last of the elder statesmen of natural history in the Middle West.

W. F. LOEHWING

WESLEY M. COATES

THE sudden death of Dr. Wesley M. Coates has greatly shocked his colleagues in the department of physics of Columbia University and the Crocker Institute. Dr. Coates's death was due to an accidental contact with the power lines of the million-volt x-ray machine at the Presbyterian Hospital. The x-ray machine was not running at the time, but certain adjustments were being made on the oscillators which feed the x-ray apparatus preparatory to its use on the following day, and the presumption is that Dr. Coates slipped and accidentally came in contact with a power circuit of about 5,000 volts. His death was presumably instantaneous, for, despite every effort by his colleague, Dr. Exner, and the staff of the Presbyterian Hospital, he could not be revived.

He had received his academic training under Professor E. O. Lawrence and David H. Sloan at the University of California and a doctorate in physics in addition. He then worked with Professor Bergen Davis in the department of physics at Columbia University for two years, and for the past year has been active with Dr. Frank M. Exner, of the Crocker Insti-

tute, in putting the finishing touches on the x-ray machine belonging to the Crocker Institute, but housed by the Presbyterian Hospital. He and Dr. Exner and Professor Charles Packard had under way a large series of experiments in the field of biophysics. Dr. Coates was a man of excellent training, had a mind of very original type, and was an enthusiastic worker. He will be greatly missed by those with whom he worked.

F. C. W.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. GEORGE H. SHERWOOD, curator-in-chief of education and honorary director of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, died suddenly on March 19 at the age of sixty-one years.

DR. JAMES B. OVERTON, professor of plant physiology at the University of Wisconsin, died suddenly on March 18. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. RAYMOND R. HITCHCOCK, since 1914 head of the department of mathematics of the University of North Dakota, died on March 10. He was fifty-six years old.

ROBERT WALPOLE ELLIS, professor of geology at the University of New Mexico for nineteen years and state geologist of New Mexico from 1918 to 1927, died on March 10 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. LOUIS BEAUFORT, for thirty years professor of surveying and geodesy at the University of Toronto until his retirement in 1931 with the title emeritus, died on March 17 at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. JOHN F. MACKEY, director of industrial work in the department of chemistry at the Central Technical School, Toronto, died on March 11 at the age of fifty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FOR the tenth successive time, annual attendance at the Field Museum of Natural History in 1936 exceeded one million visitors. The total number of visitors in the year was approximately 1,180,000. More than 94 per cent. were admitted free. Only about 67,000, or less than 6 per cent., paid the 25-cent admission charge required on certain days. Admission is free to the general public on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; children, students, teachers and members of the museum are admitted free on all days.

During the school year, Chicago's 500,000 school children were kept in daily contact with the museum by means of some 1,300 traveling natural history exhibits which are circulated among the schools on regular schedule by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension department of the museum.

In the spring and autumn the annual courses of free

illustrated lectures for adults were presented in the James Simpson Theater of the museum. These, and the series of free motion-picture programs for children, extension lectures in the schools, guide-lecture tours at the museum and other activities carried on by the division of the museum known as the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, reached approximately 250,000 persons.

Exhibits in all departments were augmented by new installations. In the department of zoology is a new habitat group of the rare emperor penguins, for which specimens collected by Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd on his last expedition to the Antarctic were presented to the museum by the Chicago Zoological Society. Another new group shows the grotesque gelada baboons found only in Ethiopia. Of interest is an exhibit of six different species of penguins from various parts of the world, the rare tamarao buffalo found only in the island of Mindoro in the Philippines, a specimen of