thing that he thought possibly of even the smallest interest as an addition to his accumulated store of knowledge and experience. His writing was the expression of his sensitive feeling for style and of his ideal of good workmanship. At its best, for instance, in his occasional satirical pieces, like the letter from the king of the termites and in "The Dry-Rot of Academic Biology," it has a force and a polish, not to mention other qualities, that recall Voltaire.

One can appraise the contributions which an unusual man has made to the civilization of his time. It is almost impossible, however, to convey in words the personality compounded of intellectual and spiritual qualities which characterize the individual as a whole and lend him the flavor and charm that make his death an utterly irreparable loss to his friends. It is quite certain that Wheeler never thought of himself as a great man. In so many ways he was the superior of those about him and his learning and originality were so freely acknowledged that a certain amount of the conceit not uncommon in lesser men might have been excusable. To some extent his sense of humor saved him from this. Like all really great men, he was extraordinarily good company. He laughed with one and, inoffensively, at one; and he was one of the very rare individuals whose idiomatic knowledge of three or four languages was such that he could laugh with equal gusto in all of them. During his later years, he spent most of his evenings in his study in West Cedar Street where one would find him sitting at a deskful of books—with more books on chairs and on the floor and with sheets of manuscript scattered under and over them. The casual visitor was installed in an armchair and the maid sent down for a bottle and the cigars. He had always read some book that other people read later—often at his instigation. His conversation would pick up from this or from some reminiscence that might lead in almost any direction from classical literature to recent discoveries of science. It was difficult to find anything of importance that he had not read—and the scope of his reading ranged from Wilhelm Busch and Alice in Wonderland to Whitehead, who himself regarded Wheeler as one of the greatest men he had ever met. A student has written the following to Mrs. Wheeler: "In a recent lecture, Professor Whitehead characterized him as the only man he had ever known who would have been both worthy and able to sustain a conversation with Aristotle."

A highly developed specialist in his own calling, Wheeler was more completely the intellectual man of the world than any but a very few of his contemporaries in this or any other country. One never left him without having learned something, and one walked down the hill after an evening with him with ever-renewed admiration and affection—and usually with a chuckle.

The death of a great naturalist, like that of a great physician, does more than put an end to a scientific career. It destroys an accumulation and synthesis of knowledge, skill, judgment and experience that can not be transmitted and preserved, because it is as yet incommunicable. To some of Wheeler's friends and colleagues these things seemed the best part of what by devotion, industry, enthusiasm and high intelligence he had made of himself professionally, an achievement even greater than his contributions to science and never to be replaced.

His written contributions to his subject will perpetuate his scientific memory, and his less technical writings will be read with interest and amusement for a long time to come. But as a personality, Wheeler was one of the great experiences in the lives of his friends and, in this sense, he will not really die until all those who knew him well are gone.

L. J. HENDERSON
THOMAS BARBOUR
F. M. CARPENTER
HANS ZINSSER

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

FREDERIC EUGENE IVES, distinguished for his work on photographic processes, especially on photoengraving and color photography, died on May 27 at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. L. B. WALTON, professor of biology at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, died suddenly on May 15 at the age of sixty-six years.

GEORGE ROBERT MCDERMOTT, emeritus professor of structurel design at Cornell University, died on May 26 at the age of seventy-six years.

PROFESSOR LUDOLF VON KREHL, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Medical Research, known for his work on the physiology and pathology of the circulatory system, died on May 26 at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. ALFRED ADLER, of Vienna, known for his work in psychiatry and psychology, who has been lecturing in England and in the United States, died suddenly on May 29 at the age of sixty-seven years.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Dr. Joseph A. Culler, emeritus professor of physics at Miami University, died on May 18 at the age of seventy-nine years. Graduating from Wooster in 1884, he received the A.M. degree two years later from the same institution and the Ph.D. in 1900. From 1903 to 1927 he was professor of physics at Miami University. Dr. Culler

was a tireless experimenter. A pioneer in the field of x-rays, he lost a considerable portion of one hand before the necessity of caution was known. But this did not long interfere with his experimental work, in which he persisted until a few months ago. He was the author of several texts which were favorably known and several monographs as well. He has for many years served his community in various official capacities. Above all he was loved for his gentle, kindly spirit. His memory will be revered by his colleagues on the faculty and by many thousands of students."

HOMAGE was paid at Media, Pa., on May 13 to the memory of Daniel Garrison Brinton, formerly professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, on the hundredth anniversary of his birth. Dr. Brinton, a native of Thornbury, near Media, died in 1899. The speakers were George L. Pennock, president of the Delaware County Institute of Science; Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, executive vice-president of the American Philosophical Society; Dr. Clark Wissler, of Yale University and the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Frank G. Speck, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Burgess W. L. Rhodes, of Media.

A BRONZE plaque has been unveiled in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathaea, Washington, D. C., in tribute to Dr. William Holland Wilmer, professor of ophthalmology in the School of Medicine of Georgetown University, 1906–1925. In 1925 Dr. Wilmer became professor of ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; ophthalmologist-in-chief at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and director of the Wilmer Institute. He retired in 1934 and died on March 12, 1936, when he was seventy-two years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BIOLOGICAL STATION AT BARENTS SEA

IT is stated in *Nature* that a new biological station is being built by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. at Murmansk on the Barents Sea. It is intended for extensive research in morphology, anatomy, embryology, physiology, biochemistry and ecology of sea organisms.

Owing to the penetration of the warm waters of the Atlantic into the Barents Sea, the fauna of the latter is extremely rich and diverse. Of importance is the fact that at Dalnye-Zelenets Bay the water is transparent to a depth of 10 meters and that large stretches of the sea bottom are visible from the surface. The scientific workers at the station will make a detailed study of the problems of evolutionary physiology, embryology and the relationship of the fauna with changed hydrological conditions effected by the Gulf Stream.

The Murmansk biological station will supply biological material to the various research institutes and higher educational institutions of the U.S.S.R. Superintending the building is a special commission consisting of S. A. Zernov (director of the station), L. A. Orbeli, V. I. Vernadsky and N. M. Knipovich, Professor K. M. Deryugin, of the University of Leningrad, Professor L. N. Fedorov, director of the All Union Institute of Experimental Medicine, and Professor I. M. Kreps.

The cost of building the Murmansk Station is estimated at 3½ million roubles, excluding equipment. A scientific library, the zoological, botanical, microbiological and hydrochemical laboratories and the libraries of other departments will be housed in the main building of the station. An aquarium designed for scientific work will be installed on the first floor of this building, while several other aquaria, open to the public, will be erected in the basement of the building. Premises containing students' laboratories will be situated near the central building and will also be equipped with large aquaria. Special interest is attached to an open-air concrete reservoir intended to accommodate large sea animals, including seals.

The spawn of crabs will be brought from the Far East for acclimatization and breeding in the Barents Sea. A special vessel, 30 meters long, built for scientific work in the open sea, will maintain uninterrupted communications between the station and the city of Murmansk.

At the beginning of this year, the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. commenced extensive work in the Dalnye-Zelenets Bay, east of the Kola Bay (Teriberka district, situated in the Northern Province) for the construction of this biological station, which will be the finest in the Soviet Union. The Soviet architect N. V. Ryumin and his assistants have designed all the buildings.

"VOCABULARY" OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

THE International Electrotechnical Commission planned the publication of the first edition of its international "Vocabulary" early this year. This work, undertaken soon after the St. Louis Electrical Congress in 1904, contains some 2,000 scientific and industrial terms used in the various branches of electrotechnics. It is the result of many years of continuous effort by a committee of experts including delegates from Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United States.