electrolytes in non-aqueous solvents; the work on the Wien and Debye-Falkenhagen effects, which deserve extended treatment, and many other researches that might be mentioned. In addition to clearing up a number of outstanding problems the new outlook has, as might be expected, raised quite a number of questions which demand investigation. However, enough of the theory has been outlined to show that it has been a useful tool of research and a powerful stimulator of investigation in what had become a somewhat stagnant field. Such stimulation of research is, of course, the main function of a theory.

OBITUARY

DUNCAN STARR JOHNSON[1]

IN the recent death, in the seventieth year of his age, of Duncan Starr Johnson, the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council has suffered the first loss from its long list of distinguished chairmen. Professor Johnson spent practically all his active life as a scientist at the Johns Hopkins University, where at the time of his death he was professor of botany and director of the botanical garden.

Though his research lay largely in the field of plant morphology, with occasional excursions into ecology, he was singularly catholic in the breadth and accuracy of his knowledge of the field of plant science. Few men could have done what he did in conducting—at first single-handed, later with the cooperation of Professor Livingston—a department of botany of such distinction that graduate students were drawn from far and near, many of whom have taken honored places in American science.

As chairman of the Division of Biology and Agriculture for 1931–32, Professor Johnson showed the same characteristics that made him a great teacher. His most conspicuous qualities were an unswerving integrity and independence and a devotion to accuracy that sometimes seemed almost extreme. Duty to him was a sacred word, and he followed his ideals without a trace of compromise. To him and to men like him American science owes much. The Division of Biology and Agriculture mourns his loss as a friend, as an exemplar of the true scientific spirit and as one who served it with scrupulous regard to his obligations as chairman.

[1] Memorial adopted by the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council on April 24, 1937.

RECENT DEATHS

FRANK TWEEDY, topographer and topographical engineer to the U. S. Geological Survey from 1884 until his retirement in 1926, died on June 28 at the age of eighty-three years.

LEON CHESTER MARSTON, JR., who was recently appointed assistant professor of entomology at Pennsylvania State College, died on June 22. He was thirty-two years old.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Paul Vere Roundy died suddenly at his home on June 21, following many months of ill health. He was born in 1884 and was appointed a member of the U. S. Geological Survey in 1908. In the ensuing twenty-eight years he served as geologist and paleontologist, working especially in the oil fields of Oklahoma and of California and in the phosphate reserve of Florida. He was also known through his work on the ostracods and conodonts, which was interrupted by his untimely death in his fifty-third year."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

IN the Executive Committee of the International Union of Biological Societies the following changes have been necessary: Professor Sir Albert Seward, our eminent president for the last period, not being reeligible, has been succeeded by Professor E. D. Merrill, of Harvard University; the vice-president, Professor Godlewski, by Professor D. M. S. Watson, of London, and the general secretary, Professor de Selys Longchamps, who has retired, by the undersigned. We have to thank most cordially Professor Seward for the very able way in which he conducted the work on behalf of our union and Professors Godlewski and de Selys for their activity.

In addition to the countries which had already joined the union (The Argentine, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Jugoslavia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland) we were much pleased in welcoming Sweden and the United States of America; negotiations with a number of other countries have not yet been concluded.

The union granted subventions to the Central Bureau for Fungus Cultures at Baarn, to the Concilium Bibliographicum at Zurich, to the International Office for Nature Protection at Brussels and to the Année Biologique at Paris; it subscribed to the *Zoological Record,* London.