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.

A General Assembly was held at Amsterdam from September 1 to 5, 1935, at the time of the sixth International Botanical Congress. The chief points of discussion for this assembly have been a reorganization of the union, which has been confirmed in its new statutes and the establishment of a connecting link between the international botanical congresses and the union.

The revision of the statutes enabled both the botanical and zoological sections of the union to obtain a more independent existence, which has resulted in a revival of the botanical section, now put under the charge of its new secretary, Dr. Verdoorn.

A further point of discussion has been the question of exact accuracy with regard to dates of publications in order to forestall disputes as to priority. It has been agreed that the date of receipt of a manuscript should be given under the title and the date of final printing at the end of the paper, the final date of publication being accepted for priority.

Papers were read by Dr. S. J. Wellensiek, Buitenzorg, Java, on "The Publication of Botanical Work," and by Professor H. Humbert, Paris, on "Sur la Protection de la Nature, considérée du point de vue biologique, dans les pays tropicaux et subtropicaux."

The report of this assembly was published by the union in March, 1936, and copies of it may be obtained from the general secretary.

The next General Assembly probably will be held in July, 1940, at Stockholm, immediately before the seventh International Botanical Congress.

M. J. SIRKS,
General Secretary

WAGENINGEN, NETHERLANDS

AWARDS FOR EXHIBITS AT THE ATLANTIC CITY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE report of the Committee on Awards for exhibits presented at the Atlantic City meeting is given in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.

Awards in Class I made for exhibits of individual investigation, which are judged on the basis of originality and excellence of presentation, were as follows:

The Gold Medal to Leonard G. Rowntree, Arthur Stenberg, N. H. Einhorn, J. H. Clark, George M. Dorrance and E. F. Ciccone, Philadelphia Institute for Medical Research, Laboratory of Philadelphia General Hospital and American Oncologic Hospital, Philadelphia, and A. M. Hanson, Faribault, Minn., for an exhibit illustrating an original investigation on normal and abnormal growth associated with the development of sarcoma in albino rats from the ingestion of a crude wheat germ oil made by ether extraction.

The Silver Medal to Eben J. Carey, department of anatomy, Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee, for an exhibit illustrating original investigation on intrinsic wave mechanics of the nervous and muscular systems.

The Bronze Medal to Louis Gross, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, for an exhibit illustrating experimental studies of the blood supply to the heart in relation to coronary sclerosis.

Certificates of Merit, Class I, are awarded to the following (alphabetically arranged):

Lester R. Dragstedt and John Van Prohaska, department of surgery, University of Chicago Clinics, for exhibit of original work on lipocaic, a new pancreas hormone.

Harry Goldblatt, department of pathology, Western Reserve University School of Medicine, for an exhibit illustrating results of work on experimental hypertension.

Nelse F. Ockerblad and Hjalmar E. Carlson, department of urology, University of Kansas School of Medicine, for an exhibit illustrating the distribution of urethral pain.

Isaac Schour, University of Illinois, Chicago, for an exhibit illustrating tooth-ring analysis.

Charles S. Venable, Walter G. Stuck and Asa Beach, San Antonio, Texas, for an exhibit illustrating the effect of electrolysis in osteosynthesis with metals.

In addition, the following exhibits are deemed worthy of honorable mention (alphabetically arranged):

Elmer L. De Gowin and W. L. Randall, department of internal medicine, State University of Iowa, on renal damage from blood transfusion.

Deryl Hart, Duke Hospital, Durham, N. C., on sterilization of the air in the operating room with bactericidal radiant energy.

Herbert L. Johnson, Boston, illustrating absorbable sutures and insulating patches made from human and bovine fetal membranes.

Virgil H. Moon, David R. Morgan and Marshall M. Lieber, department of pathology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, illustrating shock, its pathology and sequelae.

J. W. Schereschewsky, United States Public Health Service and Harvard Medical School, Boston, on carcinogenic compounds and lung tumors in mice.

Marvin R. Thompson, University of Maryland, on ergot and its active principles.

W. F. Wells and Mildred Weeks Wells, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, on air-borne infection.

Particular commendation is made of the personal demonstration by Edward C. Rosenow, Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn., of his exhibit on the relation of streptococci to the viruses of encephalitis and poliomyelitis.

THE ROCHESTER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE next meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at Rochester, N. Y., on September