narrow specialist. Undoubtedly this breadth of knowledge and interest was an important factor in making him so successful as a teacher. He was an enthusiastic traveler and although his sabbatical leave was usually spent in Europe had visited at some time each of the six continents. He was a most delightful companion on a journey, whether in fair weather or foul. A sincere and active church member, Nichols saw no conflict between science and religion, but merely two different aspects of that search for truth to which his life had been devoted. He will be held in affectionate remembrance by all who knew him, but especially by those of us who as his students and associates received encouragement and inspiration from his life and work.

ERNEST MERRITT

### RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR T. NELSON DALE, formerly professor of geology at Vassar College and Williams College and for twenty-eight years—1892–1920—geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, died on November 16. He would have reached the age of ninety-two years on November 25.

DR. CHARLES B. LINDSLEY, professor of mathematics at the University School, Cincinnati, Ohio, died on November 17 at the age of fifty-six years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ERADICATION OF THE DUTCH ELM DISEASE

FEDERAL forces made gains during the past summer in the fight on Dutch elm disease. The number of diseased trees found this year dropped twenty-five per cent. below last year in the territory where the infection is known to be of a serious epidemic character—an area extending fifty miles radially from New York City into Connecticut, New York State and New Jersey.

The disease has spread to no new territory this year, nor has it recurred in Baltimore, Brunswick and Cumberland, Md., Norfolk, Va., or Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio, where seventy-eight infected trees had been found in the past. Apparently they were discovered and removed in time to keep them from becoming sources of new infection. The only new centers of infection brought to light this season were one diseased elm at Athens, Ohio, and five diseased elms at Wileys Ford, W. Va. These trees have been destroyed. New infections along the boundaries of the major zone were limited to single trees in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, N. J.; Cornwall Township, Orange County, N. Y., and the town of Redding, Fairfield County, Conn.

There were 3,100 workers in the field from May 29 to October 1, and three examinations were made in the major area of infection and two in the 10-mile wide protective zone around it. Investigations in Indianapolis, Ind., where the disease has been present since 1934, showed an increase this year. Laboratory cultures of twig specimens from suspected trees proved the presence of the infection in 31 trees. All have been removed. As the campaign advances, it is necessary to look more closely for evidences of the disease and samples of all elms showing any symptoms of abnormality were collected. Twig samples from more than 75,000 elms with yellowed or wilting leaves and signs of brown streaks beneath the bark were sent to the laboratory for the culturing that proves the presence or absence of the disease.

An autogiro observer investigated 11,000 miles of railroad rights of way, over which the imported logs that brought the disease to this country traveled inland to be made into veneer for the cabinet makers. A follow-up ground crew visited points marked on his map. Three other autogiros were used to carry investigators over inaccessible areas in and around the major zone.

Winter activities will center on the removal of dead and devitalized elms, not necessarily infected with Dutch elm disease, but which furnish breeding places for the elm bark beetles that spread the fungus from infected to healthy trees. All elms will be removed from some areas of heavy infection and from certain swamp or mountain areas where summer work is particularly difficult and dangerous. This will make it impossible for the fungus to persist and for insect carriers to survive in areas where all diseased trees have been destroyed. In summarizing the season's activities for 1937, Lee A. Strong, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, commended the aid given by WPA labor.

### THE FINNEY-HOWELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AT the death of the late Dr. George Walker, of Baltimore, his will provided for the formation of a corporation to be known as the Finney-Howell Research Foundation, the purpose of which was to be the support of "research work into the cause or causes and the treatment of cancer." The will directed that the surplus income from the assets of the foundation together with the principal sum should be expended within a period of ten years to support a number of fellowships in cancer research, each with an annual stipend of two thousand dollars, "in such universities, laboratories or other institutions, wher-