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-

ever situated, as may be approved by the Board of Directors."

In accordance with Dr. Walker's wishes the Finney-Howell Research Foundation has been duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland, and the board of directors announce that they are prepared to award fellowships under the following regulations:

1. Fellowships carrying an annual stipend of $2,000 will be awarded each year at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors on the second Wednesday of March, beginning March, 1938. These fellowships will be awarded for a period of one year with the possibility of renewal up to three years.

2. When deemed necessary by the Board of Directors special grants of limited sums may be made to support the work carried on under a fellowship.

3. Applications must be on file at the office of the Secretary of the Foundation, Dr. William A. Fisher, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Building, 1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland, on or before the first day of February.

4. Applications should be made upon blank forms which will be furnished by the secretary or by any member of the Board of Directors.

5. It is expected that at the end of his tenure each fellow will submit to the Board of Directors a summary of the results of his investigations.

The foundation is called the Finney-Howell Research Foundation, in honor of Dr. J. M. T. Finney, emeritus professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. William H. Howell, emeritus professor of physiology.

Members of the board of scientific directors are: Dr. Philip Bard, Dr. Curtis F. Burnam, Dr. John M. T. Finney, Dr. William A. Fisher, Dr. Wade Hampton Frost, Dr. William H. Howell and Dr. Warren Lewis, of Baltimore; Dr. Evarts A. Graham, of St. Louis; Professor E. L. Kenneway, of London; Dr. Jonathan C. Meakins, of Montreal, and Dr. Florence Sabin, of New York.

## AWARD OF THE ROEBLING MEDAL OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA TO DR. PALACHE

THE award of the Roebling Medal was authorized by the Mineralogical Society of America at the last annual meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, in December, 1936. The medal is to be awarded for "meritorious achievement in mineralogy and allied sciences." It has been named in honor of the late Colonel Washington A. Roebling, of Trenton, N. J. Colonel Roebling was by profession an engineer, and in connection with his father, John A. Roebling, constructed many famous bridges throughout the country. However, his chief interest outside of his profession was mineralogy and he maintained an intense delight in it throughout his life. He built up one of the most complete private collections in the United States, and was so well acquainted with his specimens that, although he collected some 16,000 different mineral specimens, he was able to identify and describe them on occasion. His interest was not limited to the mere collection of rare specimens, but included the recent literature regarding them, and he often furnished specimens for research and analysis. His collection now forms part of the famous mineral display in the United States National Museum at Washington, D. C.

Colonel Roebling was a charter member of the Mineralogical Society and vice-president in 1924. His desire to see the society grow and enlarge was ever foremost in his mind, and led him to create an endowment fund to provide a wider scope in the publication of the journal of the society, the *American Mineralogist*. The medal bears the name of this distinguished patron of mineralogy in recognition of this service.

At its annual luncheon at the Hotel Washington, in connection with the annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America being held in Washington, D. C., from December 28 to 30, the society will present the Roebling Medal for the first time. Dr. Norman L. Bowen, president of the Mineralogical Society of America, professor of petrography at the University of Chicago, and a well-known authority on chemical mineralogy, will preside.

Dr. Edward H. Kraus, dean of the College of Letters and Science of the University of Michigan, formerly head of the department of mineralogy at that institution and one of the leading mineralogists in the United States, will present the Roebling Medal on behalf of the society to Professor Charles Palache, chairman of the department of mineralogy of Harvard University. The award is made in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the science of mineralogy.

Professor Palache has been generally recognized as the leading crystallographer in the United States. Chiefly through his crystallographic work, he has been instrumental in the determination of thirteen new mineral species recognized for the first time through his efforts.

One of Professor Palache's main contributions to mineralogy has been the description of minerals from Franklin, N. J., a mineralogically famous and industrially important zinc deposit. A large number of rare minerals has been found in the Franklin mines. In all, 160 different mineral species have been identified from this locality. No little part of this work has been accomplished by Professor Palache.

Apart from his numerous contributions in the field of pure science, Professor Palache has gained an