with decided commercial possibilities. Besides his work on taro, he had become the acknowledged authority on the native and introduced grasses of the Islands. He published several novelties in this field and had far advanced in his manuscript on local range grasses. His monograph on the seeds of the genus *Pinus* is ready for publication. His various interrupted researches will be completed by his colleagues and shortly appear in print.

He died on November 7, 1937, after a week's illness in Honolulu, his short span of life crowded with achievement. Surviving are his bride, Mrs. Jacqueline Mitchell Whitney; his mother, Mrs. M. Emmons Whitney; two sisters and a brother, all of California.

O. D.

WAIALUA, T. H.

## RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. CHARLES MORTON SMITH, dermatologist and professor emeritus of syphilology at the Harvard Medical School, died on January 8 at the age of seventy years.

SIMEON E. BOOMER, for twenty-five years head of the department of physics and astronomy at the Southern Illinois State Normal University, died on January 3 at the age of sixty-three years. He was a member of the Illinois Education Association and of the Illinois Academy of Science.

DR. ALFRED BARTON RENDLE, for many years keeper of the department of botany in the British Museum, died on January 12 at the age of seventy-two years.

JAMES L. STARKEY, the well-known British archeologist, recently was shot and killed by Arabs while he was driving in his automobile near the village of Beit Jibrin. He was fifty years old.

*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* states that to honor the memory of the late Julius A. Nieuwland, and to carry on the scientific research which he inaugurated, the University of Notre Dame has established the Julius A. Nieuwland Memorial Foundation. Its aim is "to continue projects already instituted by the man whose discoveries made possible the manufacture of synthetic rubber on a commercial basis, and to seek other outlets for pure research which, if successful, will redound to the benefit of American industry and workers." The foundation proposes the following immediate objectives: a chair of organic chemistry, $125,000; a visiting professors' endowment, $125,000; five research fellowships, at $25,000 each, $125,000; a lecture foundation endowment, $50,000; a library and research materials fund, $75,000; and a chemistry laboratory building, $500,000. The initial gift of $10,000 came from the Chemical Foundation, Inc., and a number of additional gifts have been received. Gifts are to be held in perpetuity under the administration control of a board of lay trustees.

A MEMORIAL program honoring the life and work of Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie, co-discoverer of radium, was held at Columbia University on January 20. Count George Potocki, ambassador from Poland to the United States, and Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Crocker Research Laboratories, were among the speakers. Dr. John Dyneley Prince, Columbia professor emeritus of east European languages and formerly Minister to Jugoslavia and Denmark, presided.

# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE DANISH NON-MAGNETIC RESEARCH SHIP

*The New York Herald Tribune* gives the following account of the new vessel *Dana,* constructed for the Government of Denmark, which is to be added to the fleet of research ships employed by maritime nations for oceanographic study from which are mapped accurate charts of navigable waters.

It is stated that the British Admiralty has a non-magnetic research ship in construction which will serve as a replacement for the American non-magnetic ship *Carnegie,* of the Carnegie Institution, which was destroyed by an explosion several years ago.

The new Danish vessel, costing 1,000,000 krone (about $440,000), is 147 feet long and is equipped with a large deckhouse containing three laboratories, lounge for the scientific staff, officers' mess and pantry. A teak house on the bridge deck contains chart room and master's quarters. Six cabins are provided for the investigators. The vessel has a double bottom with special fuel tanks to permit two months of uninterrupted sailing.

Driven by a 700-horsepower engine giving her a speed of twelve knots, the ship has been equipped with a special clutch arrangement which will transmit power from the engine shaft to the propeller shaft in such a way that the screw is electrically actuated at very low speeds. In this arrangement the ordinary connection between the engine and propeller is interrupted and the propeller shaft is driven through a reduction gear by an electric motor fed by a large generator coupled to the main engine. Equipment also includes an echo sounder, gyro-compass, wireless-direction finder and radio station, including telegraphy transmitters for short waves and a radio telephone transceiver.

Magnetic charts have been published. The new