

believes that when the conservatism that is still rampant has broken down, the name of John K. Small will be ever more highly revered.

J. H. BARNHART

LEO D. WHITNEY

FOLLOWING an illness of but a few days, Leo D. Whitney, assistant agronomist of the University of Hawaii, died on November 7, 1937. Born in Willits, California, on May 11, 1908, he secured his early education in the schools of Santa Rosa, and received his B.S. degree from the University of California in 1933, having majored in agronomy. The next two years were devoted mainly to graduate study in botany. Before completing his work for the Ph.D., however, he was called to the University of Hawaii to undertake special studies on grasses and on taro. He made very valuable contributions to the taxonomy of Hawaiian grasses, listing a number of new species, not before described, from Hawaii. His work dealt especially with economic pasture grasses. He had, at the time of his death, prepared for publication a list of 150 grasses, established on Hawaiian ranges. One of his principal tasks at the University of Hawaii was to attempt to work out a key for the classification of Hawaiian taro varieties. Out of more than 200 so-called varieties, he was able to describe 85 distinct horticultural varieties and to develop a satisfactory key for their identification. He also made a very distinct contribution to the knowledge of Aroids in general through his work on the seeding and mutations of taro. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Botanical Society of America, Hawaiian Botanical Society and a number of other botanical and taxonomic societies.

Mr. Whitney was a conscientious worker, thorough student and sincere friend. His untimely death came

as a severe shock to his many friends and associates, and removed prematurely one of the most promising young agronomists of the present generation.

B. A. MADSON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HARRY W. TYLER, professor emeritus of mathematics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, secretary of the American Association of University Professors from 1916 to 1933, died on February 2 in his seventy-fourth year.

DR. HOWARD E. SIMPSON, head of the department of geology of the University of North Dakota and state geologist, died on January 31. He was sixty-three years old.

SIR JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE, London, specialist in mental and nervous disorders, died on January 31 at the age of ninety-seven years.

SIR AMBROSE THOMAS STANTON, chief medical adviser to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, adviser to the government on tropical diseases, died on January 25 at the age of sixty-two years. Sir Thomas had been bacteriologist at the Institute of Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States, becoming director of the institute in 1920.

WILFRED HENRY PARKER, for eighteen years director of the British National Institute of Agricultural Botany, died on January 11 at the age of forty-nine years.

THE death is announced of Dr. A. B. Martynov on January 29. Dr. Martynov was an entomologist, known for his investigations on insect paleontology and evolution. He has been stationed during the last year or so at the Institute of Paleozoology at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESEARCH ON CHRONIC DISEASES AT WELFARE ISLAND

DR. S. S. GOLDWATER, commissioner of the Department of Hospitals of New York City, has announced the receipt of an appropriation of \$66,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the support of research on chronic diseases to be conducted on Welfare Island. This work was inaugurated two years ago and is conducted by a research staff appointed by the Department of Hospitals and supported in part by the City of New York. Supplementary funds required for the conduct of intensive research work have heretofore been obtained from various sources by the Research Council of the Department of Hospitals, to which the Rockefeller grant of \$66,000 has been intrusted for expenditure over a three-year period.

The officers of the Research Council of the Department of Hospitals are: Marshall Field, *president*; Dr. John A. Hartwell, *vice-president*; Dr. Bernard Sachs, *treasurer*, and Dr. S. S. Goldwater, *secretary*. The Research Council acts on the advice of a scientific advisory group, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alfred E. Cohn, of the Rockefeller Institute.

On the completion of the Welfare Hospital for Chronic Diseases the work of the research division, which is now being carried on in temporary quarters at Metropolitan Hospital, will be transferred to the new 1,600-bed Welfare Hospital, now rapidly approaching completion.

The following is a résumé of the scientific work now in progress:

Dr. Forrest E. Kendall has been studying the immunological behavior of the proteins of human sera with particular reference to a number of chronic diseases. Dr. Henry W. Dawson and Dr. Ralph Boots, together with Dr. Kendall, have been studying rheumatoid arthritis. A reprint of Dr. Kendall's work appeared in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Dr. Arthur J. Patek, Jr., has initiated studies on the rôle of nutrition in chronic disease of adults. Cirrhosis of the liver has been selected for special investigation. Estimation has been made of the nutritional state of patients and of their response to high vitamin diets.

In addition, Dr. Patek has carried on studies on the factors causing abnormal coagulation of the blood in hemophilia. Dr. Patek's first report of the work has appeared in the *Proceedings* of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Kenneth B. Turner and Dr. Alfred Steiner are studying the cholesterol metabolism in an effort to determine its rôle in arteriosclerosis. They have had the opportunity of determining the normal variation in the level of the blood cholesterol over a long period. They have further studied the effect on cholesterol level of such factors as cholesterol ingestion and the administration of potassium iodide and thyroid extract. The relation of hemolytic streptococcus infection to the production of atherosclerosis is being investigated. The action of choline on the formation of lipid deposition in the arteries is under study.

Dr. Dickinson W. Richards, Dr. Andre Cournand and Dr. James Scott Mansfield are occupied with physiological studies in respiration. An investigation is being made of circulatory and respiratory functions in pulmonary emphysema with particular reference to the functional residual air. Dr. Mansfield is conducting an investigation of the hypertension produced by renal ischemia. Dr. Mansfield and Dr. David Weeks are studying the possible effect on the hypertension of increasing collateral circulation to the kidneys.

Dr. Giles W. Thomas is conducting psycho-somatic studies in rheumatic arthritis.

Dr. David Seegal is working on bacteriological and immunological factors in acute and chronic glomerulonephritis.

THE SIGMA XI LECTURE SERIES AT YALE UNIVERSITY

THE second series of the Yale Sigma Xi Lectures, which was devoted to "The Chemistry of Substances Important in Living Organisms," was opened on January 19 with a lecture by Professor C. N. H. Long, head of the department of physiological chemistry, who spoke on "The Hormones and Their Relation to the Processes of Metabolism." Since considerable progress has been made in recent years in the identification of the chemical nature of the hormones he also gave a brief review of this work along with an indication of their structural relationships to other substances.

The second lecture will be given in February by Professor R. J. Anderson, who will discuss "Chemical Studies on the Tubercle Bacillus and other Acid-fast Bacilli." For the past ten years Professor Anderson has been directing a cooperative research project in the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory which has as its purpose the isolation of the chemical substances of these bacilli.

The April lecture, to be given by Professor Northrop, will be devoted to the "Chemical Nature and Mode of Formation of Pepsin, Trypsin and Bacteriophage." This lecture is of special interest to the investigators at Yale, since one of the pioneer workers on bacteriophage, Félix d'Herelle, carried on his research in the laboratories of Yale University.

The concluding lecture will be given by Professor Cowgill, who will speak on "Vitamins and Other Important Nutritive Factors." He will give a discussion of the substances which have been shown to be necessary for proper nutrition of the living organism, their chemical nature and their functions in the body as essentials to health.

The subject of the first series of lectures was "Modern Physics: Nuclear and Interatomic Reactions." The lecturers and their subjects were as follows: Professor A. F. Kovarik, "Survey of the Field, Methods of Attack and Nuclear Transformations"; Professor E. Pollard, "The Nuclear Energy Levels and Nuclear Dimensions"; Professor W. W. Watson, "The Spectroscopic Study of the Atomic Nuclei"; Professor H. Margenau, "The Forces within Atomic Nuclei"; Professor L. W. McKeehan, "Magnetization in Crystals: Ferromagnetic," and Professor C. T. Lane, "Magnetization in Crystals: Paramagnetic." The Sigma Xi lectures are open to the public and are given on Wednesday evenings.

OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AT the fortieth annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on January 20, 1938, the results of the election of officers for 1938 were announced as follows: *President*, Paul E. Howe, Bureau of Animal Industry; *Non-resident Vice-presidents*, James Franck, the Johns Hopkins University, and W. T. Thom, Princeton University; *Corresponding Secretary*, Nathan R. Smith, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Recording Secretary*, Oscar S. Adams, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Treasurer*, H. G. Avers, Coast and Geodetic Survey; and *Members of the Board of Managers* for three years, F. G. Cottrell, Research Associates, Inc., and Neil M. Judd, National Museum. *Resident Vice-presidents*, nominated by the affiliated societies, were elected as follows: