

ence of the sun's general magnetic field was a very great satisfaction to him.

In the passing of George Ellery Hale America loses not only "the greatest builder of American astronomy" but a great aristocrat in the best sense of that word—a lovable, charming personality, generous to a fault, artistic, conservative, with a keen sense of devotion to public service—a great American citizen.

ROBERT A. MILLIKAN

#### RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. FRANK LAMSON-SCRIBNER, until his retirement in 1922 agrostologist and special agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on February 22 in his eighty-sixth year.

DR. RALEIGH RUSSELL HUGGINS, since 1919 dean of the Medical School of the University of Pittsburgh, died on February 20 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. LILIAN WELSH, professor emeritus of physiology and hygiene at Goucher College, Baltimore, died on February 23. She was seventy-nine years old.

THE death is announced at the age of eighty years of Sir Algernon Thomas, emeritus professor of biology and geology at Auckland University College.

THE death at the age of seventy-eight years is reported of Professor Emeritus Paul Ernst, until his retirement in 1928 ordinarius in pathologic anatomy and director of the Institute of Pathology at Heidelberg.

THE sudden death at the age of twenty-seven years is announced of Fritz Kalekar, collaborator of the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Copenhagen, of which Professor Niels Bohr is director.

AN oil portrait of the late Dr. J. A. Udden was unveiled on February 14 at Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois), where from 1888 to 1911 Dr. Udden served as professor of biology and geology. The portrait, painted by the late Herbert A. Collins, of Berkeley, California, was presented by the Udden Geology Club, student organization of the college. It was unveiled by Miss Jane Udden, granddaughter of the geologist, now a freshman at the college. Professor Anton Carlson, of the University of Chicago, who began his scientific career as a student under Dr. Udden, gave the address, paying tribute to him for the example he set his students by pursuing research under difficult conditions.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE COST OF HEALTH SERVICES IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE cost of public social services, the subject of a Command Paper recently printed, is summarized in *The British Medical Journal*. The figures relate to 1935 or the latest available year. The cost of national health insurance for Great Britain was £38,344,000, an increase of some £8,500,000 on the figure for 1920. The total number of insured persons directly benefiting was 19,170,000. The expenditure under the Public Health Acts so far as it related to hospitals and the treatment of disease was £14,629,000, a ninefold increase on the figure for 1900, and nearly a sevenfold increase on that for 1910. The number of persons benefiting can not be stated. Hospitals for infectious diseases, for example, are available in case of need to every member of the community.

Again, in maternity and child welfare work, the cost of which was £3,590,000, no precise figures of availability can be given. The returns from local authorities indicate that a total of 581,443 infants and 184,298 expectant mothers were visited during the year, but similar figures of a number of children between the ages of 1 and 6 who were visited by the health visitor are not recorded, and, in addition, an unstated number

of children benefited by attendance at centers, day nurseries and hospitals, or by the provision of milk or other food, and an unstated number of mothers by midwifery attendances, food and hospital treatment.

Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts £2,962,000 was spent in England and Wales, and under the Mental Deficiency Acts £2,755,000. In the figures for Scotland the expenditure under these two acts is taken together and comes to £1,282,000—a lower figure, by the way, than for 1930 or 1920, the years with which it is compared. In England and Wales the combined expenditure on mental disorder and mental deficiency is £1,300,000 more than in 1930, and £2,600,000 more than in 1920. The number of persons of unsound mind in England and Wales accommodated at the expense of the mental hospitals authorities, including the Poor Law authorities, during the year under review was 126,318, but the actual number of mental defectives dealt with under the acts can not be given; upwards of 36,000 were being maintained in institutions or under guardianship, and a much larger number had been "ascertained" or were under supervision. In Scotland the combined figure for sufferers from mental disorder and for mental defectives was 21,152.