

ment of State, Centennial Exposition Rio de Janeiro, 1922-1923; supervisor of U. S. exhibits, Sesquicentennial Exposition, 1926.

His advice and help in organizing the scientific exhibits for agriculture for the Century of Progress Exposition (Chicago, 1933-34) were much appreciated by the writer and by the officers of the exposition.

Dr. Scribner retired from active government service in 1922. He received special honor as Chevalier, Mérite agricole, 1889. He was a member of the New England Botanical Club, Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia; Buffalo Academy; and was the author of many publications dealing with various aspects of botany and agriculture.

He was an expert photographer and accumulated an invaluable photographic record of the many things of interest with which he came in contact. A recent paper on the Botanic Garden at Rio de Janeiro is illustrated with enlargements of some of these superb photographs. The article is the leading one in the January, 1938, number of *The Scientific Monthly*.

Dr. Lamson-Scribner was "going strong" for more than four score years. He was straight as an arrow, clear of vision and intellect, interested in his work of collecting and writing until the day of his death.

A. F. WOODS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ERNEST WILLIAM BROWN, Josiah Willard Gibbs professor of mathematics emeritus at Yale University, died on July 22 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. JACOB KUNZ, professor of mathematical physics at the University of Illinois, died on July 18 at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. LOUIS K. OPPITZ, professor of physics at McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., died on July 8 at the age of sixty years.

ARTHUR W. COWLES, who until his retirement last January had been for forty-two years connected with the United States Patent Office, for the last twenty-six years as chief, died on July 21 at the age of seventy-eight years.

A BRONZE plaque in memory of Professor F. B. Peck, formerly head of the department of geology of Lafayette College, was unveiled recently in Markle Hall. The presentation was made by Dr. L. L. Smith, one of Professor Peck's former students, now head of the department of geology at the University of South Carolina. Dr. William S. Hall, emeritus professor of mathematics, read a eulogy, and President Lewis accepted the plaque for the college. The inscription is as follows: "Frederick Burritt Peck, professor of geology, 1897-1925; eminent geologist, inspiring teacher, sympathetic counsellor, exemplary gentleman and lovable character. Erected by his students."

Nature states that the tercentenary celebrations of the birth of James Gregory began at the Royal Society, Edinburgh, on July 4, when papers by Professors H. W. Turnbull, F. Enriques, M. Dehn, E. Hellinger and Dr. O. Prag were presented on his mathematical work. On July 5 a special graduation at the University of St. Andrews was held in the Upper Library Hall, where Gregory had worked and made astronomical observations. Honorary degrees were conferred on Professors G. D. Birkhoff, of Harvard University; A. W. Conway, of University College, Dublin; O. Neugebauer, of the University of Copenhagen; R. Weitzenböck, of the University of Amsterdam, and (*in absentia*) V. Volterra, of the University of Rome. Addresses were received from the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, the London Mathematical Society, the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the Universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge, Paris and from others. An exhibition of books and scientific instruments associated with James Gregory was arranged in the Parliament Hall, Library Buildings, St. Andrews.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

UPPER-AIR SOUNDINGS

THE radiometeorograph will replace the airplane in making upper-air soundings at six Weather Bureau stations next month.

At Nashville, Tenn.; Sault Sainte Marie, Mich.; Omaha, Nebr.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Fargo, N. Dak., and Oakland, Calif., the instrument will be carried aloft each morning by a small balloon inflated with helium. The response of weather-sensitive elements in the observatory end of the instrument to changes in the surrounding atmosphere causes the miniature wire-

less station to send out sound signals. From their audio frequency, these signals, received at a ground station, can be translated into terms of temperature, pressure and humidity of the air at all heights reached by the robot weather observer.

"Regular use of the radiometeorograph," according to Dr. W. R. Gregg, "marks the beginning of a new epoch in meteorological service." Until upper air data became available, forecasts depended mainly on ground observations of the distribution and movement of air masses. This system finally reached its limit