would know no boundaries of state or area, but would benefit agriculture throughout the country."

Work in the initial stages of the program will be concentrated on the following farm commodities and their by-products: In the southern laboratory, cotton, sweet potatoes and peanuts; in the eastern laboratory, tobacco, apples, Irish potatoes, milk products and vegetables; in the northern laboratory, corn, wheat and agricultural waste products; in the western laboratory, fruits (other than apples) and vegetables, Irish potatoes, wheat and alfalfa.

Secretary Wallace is planning for a conference within the next two months in each of the areas to consult with research institutions and representatives of producers and of industries.

SYLVATIC PLAGUE LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE University of California proposes to establish in connection with the Medical School in San Francisco a sylvatic plague laboratory to control sylvatic plague, which is now wide-spread in the rodent population of the western states. The plague, according to observations and studies thus far made, appears, however, to lack the virulence of other contagions, such as bubonic plague, that have appeared in the West in the past.

The establishment of the laboratory has been made possible by a gift of $24,000 from the Rosenberg Foundation of San Francisco. Of this amount $14,000 is to be used for the construction of a building and the balance for research and personnel. It is expected that the building will be ready by October 1. It will include a two-story section 12 feet wide by 36 feet long, and a one-story section 10 feet wide by 18½ feet long. The laboratory will be staffed and administered by the Hooper Foundation. The work of the laboratory will be concentrated on the rodent fleas, the principal carriers. Both the state and the university have been active in the campaign against sylvatic plague for some years past. All interested agencies have formed a Sylvatic Plague Committee, which has devoted itself to the collection of evidence of this plague everywhere on the American Continent and is taking measures to combat it. Anti-plague serum is being kept constantly on hand at the Hooper Foundation.

Four non-fatal human cases of the plague have been bacteriologically proved thus far, and there is said to be strong evidence that a fifth case was infected with the plague bacillus. The plague has taken a considerable toll among the rodent populations of the state, the infected fleas being found on squirrels, chipmunks, chickarees and other forms. The Hooper Foundation has counted thirteen rodents and rodent varieties that suffer from spontaneous plague, the list including squirrels, marmots, chipmunks, prairie dogs, mice and rats.

It is generally believed that the West Coast became infected in the course of the pandemic of 1894, which originated in Hongkong. It is assumed that rats conveyed the seed to the shores of California and spread it to the squirrels. It has now reached Montana and appears to be working eastward.

THE SQUIBB INSTITUTION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

E. R. SQUIBB AND SONS have announced the establishment of the Squibb Institution for Medical Research, for which a laboratory building in New Brunswick, N. J., has been erected at a cost of $750,000. It is planned to dedicate the laboratory in October. It is stated in the official announcement that research activity, already underway, has been organized in four main divisions—experimental medicine, pharmacology, bacteriology and virus diseases, and organic chemistry. In addition, the institute will conduct a biochemical laboratory and a medicinal chemistry laboratory.

To provide clinical facilities for the research staff, a plan of hospital affiliation is being worked out by the Division of Experimental Medicine. A free ward of fifteen or twenty beds will be maintained for the observation of patients in connection with various problems being studied at the institute.

Dr. Geo. A. Harrop, since last year director of research at New Brunswick, who was previously associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University and associate physician of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, has been appointed director of research in charge of the institute. Dr. Harrop will also be at the head of the Division of Experimental Medicine.

Other appointments are:

Dr. Harry B. van Dyke, professor and head of the department of pharmacology of the Peiping Union Medical College in China, has been made head of the Division of Pharmacology. He was formerly associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Geoffrey W. Rake, chief of the Division of Bacteriology, formerly research associate in the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto, has been placed at the head of the Division of Bacteriology and Virus Diseases. Dr. Rake was previously an associate in the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

The head of the Division of Organic Chemistry will be Dr. Erhard Fernholz, formerly of the University of Göttingen and Princeton University, and more recently with the research laboratory of Merck and Company.

Dr. Hans Jensen will be associate in charge of the biochemical laboratory. He was formerly associate in pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University, where he cooperated with the late Professor John Jacob Abel, since 1932 in the laboratory for endocrine research.

William A. Lott, now of the research laboratory of E.

R. Squibb and Sons, formerly instructor in chemistry at Rutgers University, will be associate in charge of the Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE semi-centennial meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, on December 28, 29 and 30.

According to the preliminary program, Dr. Arthur L. Day, the retiring president, will deliver his address on Thursday evening. This will be followed by a complimentary smoker. On Friday there will be given a special anniversary day program by leading representatives in several major fields of geology.

With this year, the Geological Society of America will complete a fifty-year period of service in geologic science. It was formally organized at Ithaca, New York, in December, 1888, on call of a Special Committee on Organization, composed of Alexander Winchell (chairman), John J. Stevenson (secretary), Charles H. Hitchcock, John R. Procter and Edward Orton. The first meeting, held in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section E, was attended by thirteen men, only one of whom, Professor Herman LeRoy Fairchild, of Rochester, is still living. This first meeting was called with a pledged membership of 112 men, who became known thereafter as original fellows. The first election resulted in the addition of 14 fellows. Out of this total number, 6 original fellows and 1 elected fellow are still living.

Now, after fifty years, the society has a membership of 700, all but a handful of whom have come into the organization since those early days; and it has seemed appropriate, therefore, to pause at the end of a period which has seen remarkable development in many ways and take stock of accomplishment and responsibilities. To this end, special observance is planned at the annual meeting of 1938.

The quarter-centennial of the society was observed in Princeton in December, 1913. A part of the opening session of the annual meeting of that year was devoted to a symposium on the work of the society, and opportunity was made at the annual dinner for the story of the initiation of the society. The membership at that time was 380. One hundred and thirty fellows attended the quarter-centennial meeting, the total registration being 265.

The Geological Society, as has long been the custom, invites the Paleontological Society and the Mineralogical Society of America to hold annual meetings also at this time and take part in other activities. The Society of Economic Geologists will be represented and will hold a luncheon. The Seismological Society of America also has been invited to hold scientific sessions at this time. Special meetings are also being arranged for the Section of Vertebrate Paleontologists.

In connection with the meeting the following excursions are planned:

Excursion 1. Glacial and Tertiary Geology, Staten Island and New Jersey. Leader, Dr. Meredith Johnson.

Excursion 2. Engineering Geology in the Vicinity of New York. Leaders, Dr. Charles P. Berkey, James F. Sanborn and Thomas Fluhr.

Excursion 3. Geology of the Palisades. Leader, Dr. S. James Shand.

Excursion 4. Airplane Trip over Manhattan Island and Vicinity. Leader, Dr. Girard Wheeler.

RECENT DEATHS

GUY N. COLLINS, principal botanist in charge of the Division of Genetics and Biophysics of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 14 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ABRAM T. KERR, professor of anatomy at Cornell University, died on August 15 at the age of sixty-five years. He had been connected with the university since 1900.

DR. EDWIN BEER, who retired last March as chief of the urological service at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City, died on August 13 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. G. M. JOHNSTONE MACKAY, director of research at the Stamford, Conn., laboratories of the American Cyanamid Company, died on July 29 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. JAN CONSTANTIJN COSTERUS, formerly director of the Technical School at Amsterdam, died on July 31 at the age of eighty-nine years. Dr. Costerus is known for the long series of articles he published on plant-teratology, in part with Dr. J. J. Smith.

THE death at the age of sixty-five years is announced of Dr. Leo Frobenius, director of the Institute for the Study of Morphology of Civilization in Frankfort-on-Main. Dr. Frobenius led twelve expeditions to Africa. The Frobenius collection at the institute comprises more than 3,500 facsimiles of prehistoric rock paintings and engravings. Dr. Frobenius visited New York last year to attend the opening of an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art of 200 prehistoric cave drawings from his collection.

Nature records the death on June 19 of the Rev. Dr. W. C. Willoughby, of Birmingham, an authority on the Bantu of South Africa, at the age of eighty-one years, and of Captain F. S. Barnwell, chief designer of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, a pioneer in British aviation, on August 2, aged fifty-eight years.