

OBITUARY

FRED CAMPBELL MEIER

FRED CAMPBELL MEIER, a passenger on the Hawaii Clipper, lost near the Philippines on July 28, was born in Riggston, Ill., on April 5, 1893. His father, W. H. D. Meier, rural schoolmaster and superintendent of schools, moved the family to Framingham, Mass., in 1910, took up work at Harvard and obtained his Ph.D. in 1919. It was only natural, perhaps, that the son should also go to Harvard and that the three daughters in this remarkable family should also go in for advanced academic degrees. Father, son and three daughters are all in the sixth edition of "American Men of Science."

After graduation from Harvard, he served as Austin teaching fellow there for two years, being awarded an A.M. in 1917. In 1918 he was offered a position in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, as assistant pathologist. In about a year he was transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as pathologist, returning to Plant Industry in 1921. In 1922 he was chosen as extension pathologist of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work investigating diseases of cucurbits. He held this position for eight years. It took him up and down the east coast, from the melon field to the market place. In 1930 the Division of Barberry Eradication was formed, and he was placed in charge. He left this position, however, in 1934 and returned to the Extension Service, which position he held at the time of his death.

From 1929 to 1934 he was secretary-treasurer of the American Phytopathological Society and business manager of its publication, *Phytopathology*. Because of his long association with this society and his extensive travels, he became well acquainted with plant disease control problems throughout the United States. He was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Cosmos Club, Torch Club and Botanical Society in Washington.

In addition to his work on plant disease control, Meier will be remembered for his work on his hobby, aerobiology. He was intensely interested in the microbial content of the upper air, spending his own money and his vacations devising apparatus, making collections, photographing slides and studying cultures. He showed an uncanny aptitude in making contacts. Commercial airplane officials, as well as the Army and Navy, cooperated with him and made collections possible from the upper air, not only over land, but along the Atlantic coast and over the Caribbean Sea as well. He persuaded Colonel Lindbergh to aid him in designing a "sky-hook," by which samples of spores in the air were collected by the Lindberghs on their trip to Europe across the North Atlantic. Later Amelia Ear-

hart took his apparatus and was making collections for him on her ill-fated round-the-world flight. This was a severe blow, but it did not discourage him.

As a result of his continued efforts, an Interdivisional Committee in the Life Sciences and the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council was appointed in 1937, and Meier was named as chairman. Within a year he had obtained a grant from the National Research Council and the Bureau of Plant Industry, which would enable him to take leave from his official duties in the Extension Service and give two months in the summer of 1938 and four months in the spring of 1939 to this project. Thus at the beginning of the realization of the results of years of thought and effort, when he was really in a position to devote his best efforts to his hobby, his life was suddenly brought to a close. If it had to be, this was a most fitting manner for him to die, engaged in the work he liked best, pioneering in a field that has hardly been touched.

In 1920 he married Agnes W. Eastman, who survives him. He will be missed by a large group of friends, both official and social, who will long remember his unbounded energy and enthusiasm in work or play.

NATHAN R. SMITH

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

VICTOR KING CHESNUT, who had been connected until his retirement in 1933 for thirty-nine years successively as botanist and chemist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 29 at the age of seventy-one years.

STUART A. STEPHENSON, professor of mathematics and engineering at Rutgers University, died on September 1 at the age of sixty years.

DR. THOMAS R. BOGGS, associate professor of clinical medicine in the Johns Hopkins University Medical School and physician in chief of the Baltimore City Hospital, died on September 2 in his sixty-third year.

DR. ARTHUR EVERETT AUSTIN, emeritus professor of the theory and practice of medicine at the Medical School of Tufts College, Boston, died on August 22 at the age of seventy-seven years. Dr. Austin specialized in diseases of the digestive tract.

DR. JOHN N. LOWE, associate professor of biology at the Northern State Teachers College at Marquette, Mich., died on July 27 in his fifty-second year.

SIR DAVID WILKIE, since 1924 professor of surgery at the University of Edinburgh, died on August 25. He was fifty-six years old. Sir David was known for research in abdominal surgery.

THE Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology has officially named the mining building Sperr Hall in honor of the late Frederick William Sperr, head of the department of mining and

civil engineering from 1894 to 1926. Professor Sperr died in November, 1929. The building now named in his memory was designed, erected and equipped under his supervision.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PROPOSED DIVERSION OF THE WATERS OF YELLOWSTONE LAKE

PROFESSOR L. G. ROMELL, of Djursholm, secretary of the Swedish Government Committee on Planning and Recreation, who was at one time head of the department of forest soils at Cornell University, recently addressed a letter to Secretary Harold L. Ickes protesting against attempts made in the seventy-fifth Congress to permit diversion of the waters of the Yellowstone Lake for irrigation purposes in the Upper Snake River basin, Idaho.

Professor Romell wrote: "It may not be the business of anybody outside the United States to express himself on the proposed engineering and water diversion project in the heart of the world's oldest national park. However, in a way, the wonderland of Yellowstone belongs to the world. If commercial interests should be allowed to encroach upon Yellowstone Lake it would mean far more than despoliation and would be a terrific blow to the entire national park idea which could not fail to have its repercussions throughout the world."

In reply Secretary Ickes wrote in part:

I have received your letter of June 24, describing the damaging effects upon national park standards throughout the world that would follow if Congress were to authorize the diversion of waters of Yellowstone Lake for irrigation purposes, proposed in S. 3925 and H. R. 10469, introduced but not acted upon in the last session of the Congress.

It is gratifying to hear from you that Yellowstone National Park is taken as the international model for all national parks. It will be my endeavor to keep it so by opposing the present irrigation project and all proposals tending to break down the integrity of our national park standards. The enjoyment of its magnificent natural wonders is not limited to Americans. Last year alone some 6,400 visitors from 37 foreign countries visited the park.

Recalling that the Congress, in establishing the park in 1872, made it the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to provide "for the preservation, from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park, and their retention in the natural condition," Mr. Ickes said: "Like my predecessors I insist that this condition is indispensable if the Yellowstone National Park is to continue to fulfill the purpose for which it was established."

CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

A NUMBER of changes have been made in the personnel of the Food and Drug Administration, of which Dr. W. G. Campbell is chief. These are:

Joseph Callaway, Jr., now chief chemist of the Eastern Food and Drug Inspection District, with headquarters at New York, becomes senior chemist to serve as technical assistant and secretary of the reorganized Food Standards Committee of four state food law enforcement officials and two members of the Food and Drug Administration. This committee will consider data on the authentic composition of food materials and formulate standards of identity and reasonable standards of quality and fill of container for various foods.

Roy S. Pruitt, now chief chemist of the New Orleans Food and Drug Inspection Station, also will be transferred to Washington and attached to the office of the chief to handle administrative details of the new cosmetic section of the law.

Dan Dahle, at present associate chemist in the Food Division of the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, who has had long experience in the development of food methods, has been assigned to develop laboratory methods for the analysis of cosmetics and will work in close cooperation with Mr. Pruitt.

Dr. J. J. Durrett, now chief of the Drug Division of the administration in Washington, becomes principal technical adviser and is attached to the office of the chief of the administration. He will share with other officers the responsibility of determining administrative questions on the application of the new law to drugs, devices, special dietary products and cosmetics, and will give special consideration to the adequacy of information submitted by manufacturers with their applications on new drugs filed in compliance with the provisions of the act.

Dr. Theodore G. Klumpp, now senior medical officer of the Drug Division, succeeds Dr. Durrett as chief of that division. Dr. Klumpp is a graduate of Princeton University, received his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in 1928, served his internship at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, was assistant resident physician at Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, instructor at Yale University Medical School, and an associate physician at the New Haven Hospital.

FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HENRY A. WALLACE has approved the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration for the appointment in that organization of a Food Standards Committee, which will func-