limited to the methods of determining the best combinations of strains and to the technique of producing such combinations.

The study of inheritance in maize led quite naturally to an interest in the origin of this crop and an interest in the American Indians who developed it. Consequently his articles on the phylogeny, agricultural history and origin of maize are definite contributions to this subject, ranking equally in importance to his contributions to maize heredity.

His insistence on the use of biometry not only on his own data but on those of his associates in the Bureau of Plant Industry compelled him to contribute much of his time to other investigators, at that time feeling their way through the labyrinth of statistical methods. In this manner he made contributions to much of the research of his colleagues. His was the first division in the Department of Agriculture to utilize the now common Hollerith tabulating machines.

Mr. Collins was devoted to the billiard table with its fascinating geometrical and psychological problems and was an ardent baseball fan. Confined to his home by his last illness he undertook with the aid of the radio to determine whether left-handed pitchers were more effective against left-handed batters than against right-handed batters, as is claimed by most team managers. This study was not completed.

Mr. Collins was highly regarded by his colleagues for his absolute honesty and for the objectivity with which he approached all problems whether of a personal or scientific nature. He was always patient and tolerant, particularly with younger workers to whose projects he was ever ready to contribute both advice and assistance.

To his staff he was a father confessor whose ready sympathy and understanding lightened many a burden.

In his death biological science has lost a great spirit, always fired with enthusiastic curiosity on scientific questions and tempered with a reasonableness that can come only with the highest intellectual development.

Mr. Collins is survived by his widow, Christine Collins, and two sons, George Briggs Collins, Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, and Perez Hathaway Collins, of the Engineering Department of the Dye Works Division of the du Pont Company, Wilmington, Delaware.

J. H. KEMPTON

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

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

EDWARD MURRAY EAST, professor of genetics at Harvard University, died on November 9 at the age of fifty-nine years.

JOHN HENRY NEFF, professor of urology at the University of Virginia, died by suicide on November 9. He was fifty-one years old.

THE following deaths are noted in *Nature:* Sir John Griffith, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1919, on October 21, aged ninety years; George Jennison, formerly owner and principal curator of the Belle Vue Zoological Gardens, Manchester, on October 21, aged sixty-six years; Colonel J. Clibborn, formerly principal of the Thomason Engineering College, Rorkee, known for his work in connection with irrigation in northern India, on October 31, aged ninety years.

IN honor of the late Dr. C. H. Eckles, chairman of the department of dairy husbandry at the Missouri College of Agriculture from 1901 to 1919, who died on February 13, 1933, the Board of Curators of the university has announced that the new dairy husbandry building will be named Eckles Hall.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

UNITED STATES STANDARDS IN ARGENTINA

THE Board of Directors of the American Standards Association has taken favorable action on a proposal that a permanent staff representative be stationed in Buenos Aires for the purpose of promoting American standards and other standards now in use by American industry. The decision of the board to take this action was based largely on the recommendations of a group of manufacturing concerns, trade associations and technical societies that met last June to discuss the need of a better knowledge of American industrial standards in South America. The fact that British, German and other interests have for some time been active in encouraging adoption of their standards had already brought forth suggestions from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce at Buenos Aires that American interests should also be represented.

Argentina, primarily an agricultural country, is the market for many American-made products. With the exception of Canada, it provides the leading outlet for motor trucks. It is the seat of several large American-owned meat-packing plants. North American oil companies have an interest in Argentina's petroleum business. Such firms as Goodyear, Firestone, Michelin and Dunlop manufacture tires in the country; du Pont has a rayon factory there and is also bidding for a share of the country's chemical business. The International Telephone and Telegraph Company counts Argentine business as its largest single foreign invest-

ment. In this situation a better understanding of American industrial standards has been felt to be an important factor in our future business relations with the country.

The action taken by the A. S. A. Board is contingent upon the guarantee of sufficient funds to support the work by the concerns interested in the project. A committee, consisting of L. J. Briggs, director, National Bureau of Standards; C. L. Collens, president, Reliance Electric and Engineering Company; Howard Coonley, chairman of board, Walworth Company, and R. E. Zimmerman, vice-president, U. S. Steel Corporation, has been appointed to draw up a possible budget and to determine definitely whether and from what sources financial support may be forthcoming. This committee will also, with the advice and collaboration of the National Foreign Trade Council and of those American firms participating in the financial program, assist in the selection of the proposed representative. This representative, who will be stationed at Buenos Aires, will undoubtedly look for considerable supervision and guidance in his work to the American Chamber of Commerce at Buenos Aires, which has expressed itself as exceedingly interested in the project.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

THE fifty-ninth annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held at the Engineering Societies Building in New York City from December 5 to 9. It will present the latest developments in the fields of machine tools, steam power, aeronautics, management, safety, metals, fuels, instruments, textiles, hydraulics, lubrication, railroads, research and ordnance.

Engineers from all parts of the world will attend the meeting to present the results of their work in all phases of mechanical engineering, with particular emphasis on high speed, high pressure, high efficiency and high temperature. For each engineer who speaks, it is expected that there will be twenty-five others in attendance.

During the week, delegates from the seventy-one local sections of the society in the United States and Canada will meet to discuss ways and means of increasing the usefulness of the society, which has now 15,000 members, to the individual member and to his community. A conference will be held for the purpose of correlating the activities of the divisions so as better to promote the art and science of mechanical engineering as a whole. The society at present is made up of seventeen divisions: Aeronautics, Applied Mechanics, Fuels, Graphic Arts, Heat Transfer, Hydraulics, Iron and Steel, Machine Shop Practice, Management, Materials Handling, Oil and Gas Power, Petroleum, Power, Process Industries, Railroad, Textile and Wood Industries.

Besides the technical sessions, there will be a business meeting on Monday afternoon, December 5, and several luncheons and dinners. The chief social events are: Honors Night on Tuesday evening, December 6, when awards and medals will be presented, and the annual dinner on Wednesday evening, December 7.

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America will be held at Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia, from Tuesday to Saturday, December 27–31, in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Mathematical Society and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The association will meet jointly with Sections A and E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the society on Wednesday morning in Richmond and will hold a joint session with the National Council at Williamsburg on Friday afternoon and a separate session on Saturday morning, when the annual business meeting will be held. The Program Committee is planning three addresses for the Saturday morning session.

The American Mathematical Society will hold sessions on Wednesday morning in Richmond and on Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning in Williamsburg; on Thursday afternoon President R. L. Moore will deliver his retiring address, "On Certain Abstract Spaces." The National Council will hold on Friday morning a section on arithmetic and a secondary section on school mathematics; at the joint session on Friday afternoon addresses on teacher training will be given by Professors A. A. Bennett, F. L. Wren and R. L. Morton.

On Tuesday evening, in Richmond, Dean G. D. Birkhoff, of Harvard University, will deliver his address as retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on "Intuition, Reason and Faith in Science." This is the opening meeting of the association.

In the Broadcasting Studio of the Mosque, Richmond, at 9:30 A.M., on Wednesday, Professor W. D. Cairns, of Oberlin College, will deliver his retiring address as vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and chairman of Section A before a joint session of Sections A and E, the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association. His subject will be "Seismology from a Mathematical Viewpoint." At 10:45 Professor H. A. Rademacher, of the University of Pennsylvania, will make an address on "Fourier Expansions