

him to exert his influence towards the establishment of the U. S. Fisheries Laboratory at Beaufort, N. C., and he served as director of it from 1898 to 1901. This laboratory was always near to his heart, and he spent many happy summers there engaged in the investigation of problems of marine biology.

Throughout his long productive life he was nearly always working but never hurried. Despite a heavy load of teaching and administrative duties, his research accomplishments are impressive. He was one of the foremost authorities of the world in the classification of the sponges, and some of his papers in other fields are classical. It is appropriate to mention here his work on the embryology of the sponges, coelenterates and lower vertebrates and his dramatic and widely known work on the regeneration of sponges and coelenterates from dissociated cells. Just a few months before his death he reported to the National Academy of Sciences his final fundamental research dealing with the participation of vacuoles in the formation of cell membranes.

Dr. Wilson's qualities of character and mind made him a vivid and forceful personality and a delightful and stimulating companion in his hours of relaxation. Simple in his habits, inherently and inescapably honest, he had no patience with pretense or complacency. His opinions and criticisms were searching and straightforward, sometimes to the point of sharpness, but, being kindly and tolerant by nature, he gained not only the respect but the affection and devotion of all those who knew him well. Although primarily a biologist, his intellectual interests were far-ranging. The writer, who was closely associated with him for several years, recalls with a feeling of stimulation and pleasure how his incisive mind would cut through the superficialities investing any subject and how his comments would illuminate a wide variety of topics.

Although he was not aggressive for publicity and honors, Dr. Wilson's merit was recognized by his fellow biologists throughout the world. He served as president of the American Society of Zoologists and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society, American Society of Naturalists, Boston Society of Natural History, Société Linnéenne de Lyon, etc.

In 1893 he married Edith Theresa Stickney, of Boston. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Thorn-dike Saville, of New York City, and Mrs. Howell Peacock, of Philadelphia, and by one son, Dr. H. V. Wilson, Jr., of Dover, Delaware.

W. C. GEORGE

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ALBERT SAUVEUR, emeritus professor of metal-lurgy and metallography at Harvard University, died on January 26 at the age of seventy-five years.

PROFESSOR JOHN HENRY SCHAFFNER, since 1911 professor of botany at the Ohio State University, with which he had been associated since 1897, died on Janu-ary 27 at the age of seventy-two years.

DR. EDWARD SAPIR, since 1931 professor of anthro-pology and linguistics at Yale University, died on February 4 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. GEORGE H. GIRTY, geologist and paleontologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, a specialist on carbon-iferous formations and faunas, died on January 27. He was sixty-nine years of age.

PROFESSOR RALPH CLEMENT BRYANT, a member of the faculty of the Yale School of Forestry, since 1911 as professor of lumbering, died on February 1 at the age of sixty-two years.

ARTHUR N. LEEDS, research associate in botany at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, died on January 26 at the age of sixty-eight years.

EDGAR HERBERT WELLS, since 1921 president of the New Mexico School of Mines at Socorro, N. M., com-mitted suicide on January 8. He was fifty-one years old. Mr. Wells had been professor of geology and mineralogy of the college from 1917 to 1925 and state geologist from 1925 to 1927.

FORMER associates of the late Dr. T. Wingate Todd, professor of surgery of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, who died on December 28, held a memorial service in his honor on January 15. Dr. Elliot C. Cutler, professor of surgery of Harvard University, formerly of Western Reserve University, and the Hon. Harold H. Burton, Mayor of Cleveland, gave the principal addresses.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

A NATIONAL health program, which would pro-vide for expenditures by 1949 of up to \$850,000,000 annually from state and Federal funds, was recom-mended to President Roosevelt last July by his special Inter-Departmental Committee on Health and Welfare. While the proposal stirred up some opposition in med-ical circles, the American Medical Association agreed

last September with the Inter-Departmental Committee that there is a vital need for an extension of existing medical facilities, and Senator Wagner has prepared a bill calling for an appropriation of \$50,000,000.

Money appropriated for the health program would, according to recommendations, be used to:

Pay physicians to care for those too poor to afford med-ical care; assist existing hospitals and build new ones

where needed, particularly in rural areas; establish clinics for quick diagnosis and treatment of disease; encourage vaccination against preventable diseases.

Develop maternal and child welfare facilities, including baby clinics, schools for expectant mothers, visiting nurses and obstetrical care if needed.

Stimulate public health service to control disease through such activities as controlling stream pollution, establishing more efficient quarantines, health instruction for both children and adults and closer inspection of milk and water supplies.

Funds would be allotted to states and communities under restrictions requiring that they do their part in health promotion.

In submitting the program to the Congress on January 23, President Roosevelt sent the following message:

In my annual message to the Congress I referred to problems of health security. I take occasion now to bring this subject specifically to your attention in transmitting the report and recommendations on National Health prepared by the Inter-Departmental Committee to coordinate health and welfare activities.

The health of the people is a public concern; ill health is a major cause of suffering, economic loss and dependency; good health is essential to the security and progress of the nation.

Health needs were studied by the Committee on Economic Security which I appointed in 1934 and certain basic steps were taken by the Congress in the Social Security Act. It was recognized at that time that a comprehensive health program was required as an essential link to our national defenses against individual and social insecurity. Further study, however, seemed necessary at that time to determine ways and means of providing this protection most effectively.

In August, 1935, after the passage of the Social Security Act, I appointed the Inter-Departmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities. Early in 1938, this committee forwarded to me reports prepared by their technical experts. They had reviewed unmet health needs, pointing to the desirability of a National Health Program, and they submitted the outlines of such a program. These reports were impressive. I therefore suggested that a conference be held to bring the findings before representatives of the general public and the medical, public health and allied professions.

More than 200 men and women, representing many walks of life and many parts of our country, came together in Washington last July to consider the technical committee's findings and recommendations and to offer further proposals. There was agreement on two basic points, the existence of serious unmet needs for medical service; and our failure to make full application of the growing powers of medical science to prevent or control disease and disability.

I have been concerned by the evidence of inequalities that exist among the states as to personnel and facilities for health services. There are equally serious inequalities

of resources; medical facilities and services in different sections and among different economic groups. These inequalities create handicaps for the parts of our country and the groups of our people which most sorely need the benefits of modern medical science.

The objective of a National Health Program is to make available in all parts of our country and for all groups of our people the scientific knowledge and skill at our command to prevent and care for sickness and disability; to safeguard mothers, infants and children, and to offset through social insurance the loss of earnings among workers who are temporarily or permanently disabled.

The committee does not propose a great expansion of federal health services. It recommends that plans be worked out and administered by states and localities with the assistance of federal grants-in-aid. The aim is a flexible program. The committee points out that while the eventual costs of the proposed program would be considerable, they represent a sound investment which can be expected to wipe out, in the long run, certain costs now borne in the form of relief.

We have reason to derive great satisfaction from the increase in the average length of life in our country and from the improvement in the average levels of health and well-being. Yet these improvements in the averages are cold comfort to the millions of our people whose security in health and survival is still as limited as was that of the nation as a whole fifty years ago.

The average level of health or the average cost of sickness has little meaning for those who now must meet personal catastrophes. To know that a stream is four feet deep on the average is of little help to those who drown in the places where it is ten feet deep. The recommendations of the committee offer a program to bridge that stream by reducing the risks of needless suffering and death, and of costs and dependency, that now overwhelm millions of individual families and sap the resources of the nation.

I recommend the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee for careful study by the Congress. The essence of the program recommended by the committee is federal-state cooperation. Federal legislation necessarily precedes, for it indicates the assistance which may be made available to the states in a cooperative program for the nation's health.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE importance of scientific research and the part played in research by the Federal Government were emphasized in a report by the National Resources Committee transmitted to the Congress by President Roosevelt on January 23. The study was directed by a Subcommittee on Research of the Science Committee, consisting of Charles H. Judd, University of Chicago, *chairman*; William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago, and Edwin B. Wilson, Harvard University. Other members of the Science Committee are: Ross G. Harrison, Yale University, *chairman*, National Research