

upset. Dr. Jacques, who was in his forty-third year, was unable to swim. Dr. Lebour, who is now seventy years old, was able to keep afloat until rescued.

THE death is announced of Professor S. P. L. Sørensen, director of the chemical department of the Carlsberg Laboratory at the University of Copenhagen, at the age of seventy-one years.

PROFESSOR KARL SCHRÖTER, emeritus professor of botany in the Federal College of Technology, Zurich, has died at the age of eighty-four years.

It is stated in *Nature* that the British Minister of Health has approved an order made by Slough Town Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, for the preservation of Observatory House, Slough, the residence of Sir William Herschel, where he set up his 40-ft. telescope, and also of his son, Sir John Herschel.

A CEREMONY in commemoration of the biologist and physician, Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799) will be held at Padua next spring during the meeting of the International Congress of Experimental Biology.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WORK on the eighty-nine PWA projects for physical improvements in the national parks and monuments, from PWA allotments amounting to \$2,090,500, which were announced in 1938, was under way before January 1. Ranging from allotments for \$500 to \$230,000 for one project, most of the work involves improvements to utilities, including sanitation facilities, water systems, lighting and power plants in the various areas of the Federal park system. In Yosemite National Park, California, there are ten miscellaneous projects that will be carried out at a cost of \$200,600.

At Lassen Volcanic National Park, California, five projects are in progress involving a total expenditure of \$76,500. One at Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, involves the installation of modern plumbing facilities in the caverns, 750 feet below the surface. This entails pumping raw sewage to the surface, requiring a special type pump—a problem seldom experienced by sanitary engineers.

At Lava Beds National Monument, California, a well will be drilled 900 feet through a lava cap in an effort to find water. The water has now to be hauled some distance in tanks and barrels. At Petrified Forest National Monument, Arizona, a pump house and new pipe line will be installed to increase its fresh water supply obtained from a well at "Pig River" twelve miles away. A well drilled at Petrified Forest several years ago produced only salt water.

Some of the larger projects undertaken in the national parks and monuments are:

At Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, a schoolhouse and teacher's residence together with schoolroom equipment, to cost \$35,000; Giant Forest, in Sequoia National Park, California, an improved water system to cost \$36,000; modern water and sewage systems at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, \$42,000; an extension to the storage reservoir at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, \$35,000.

Boulder Dam Recreational Area, Nevada, will have increased facilities at the Hemenway Wash area being developed on the shore of Lake Mead. These will include water, sewage, electricity and an irrigation system. This project will cost \$150,000.

Olympic National Park, Washington, will get an administration building, custodian's home, warehouse and garage on land donated to the Federal Government by the city of Port Angeles, Washington. A new fire lookout tower, fire patrol cabins and trailside shelters will be provided. The projects for this park will cost \$90,000, with an additional \$25,000 for the extension and reconstruction of the telephone and radio systems, and \$90,500 for miscellaneous trail construction.

In Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, \$230,000 will be spent for improvement and extension of the water, sewage and electric systems for Old Faithful, West Thumb, Fishing Bridge and Canyon. An additional \$12,500 are expected to go on five secondary fire lookouts.

An allotment of \$45,000 for the Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York, will permit the replacing of an old six-inch water main from the tip of Manhattan Island to Bedloe's Island.

Most of the other projects involve relatively small sums, and have to do with sewage, water, sanitary facilities and similar improvements. The Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Massachusetts, will have its separate and inadequate heating plants replaced by a new central plant in the old custom house, to serve Derby House and Hawkes House.

THE DEDICATION OF THE McDONALD OBSERVATORY

THE ceremonies attending the dedication of the McDonald Observatory at Fort Davis, Texas, to be held from May 5 to 8, will be conducted jointly by the University of Chicago and the University of Texas. On this occasion an astronomical symposium will be held under the auspices of the observatory and of the Warner and Swasey Company, under the general title "Galactic and Extragalactic Structure." Those wishing to attend the dedication and the symposium are