

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

requested to make hotel reservations by writing to the Observatory, Fort Davis, Texas.

The Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its annual meeting at Alpine, Texas, from May 2 to 5, immediately preceding the dedication ceremony. On Thursday evening, May 4, Professor Arthur H. Compton will deliver the annual John Wesley Powell Lecture of the Southwestern Division on "Physics Views the Future." On Thursday morning and afternoon the sessions of the Section on Physical Sciences will be reserved for astronomical papers. Contributions to this program are invited from all observatories. Titles should be sent to Dr. C. T. Elvey, McDonald Observatory, Fort Davis, Texas, before April 1.

On Friday morning there will be an astronomical symposium at the McDonald Observatory at which the presiding officer will be Professor Henry Norris Russell, director of the Princeton University Observatory. The speakers will be Professor Harlow Shapley, of the Harvard College Observatory; Dr. J. Gallo, of the National Observatory of Mexico, and Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director emeritus of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory.

The program at the dedication on Friday afternoon of the McDonald Observatory will be as follows:

Tender of completed observatory to the director by President P. E. Bliss, of the Warner and Swasey Company.

Acceptance of the completed observatory by Professor Otto Struve, Yerkes Observatory.

"The Cooperative Enterprise," President Robert Maynard Hutchins, of the University of Chicago.

Acceptance for the University of Texas by a member of the Board of Regents.

"Some Features of the New Mirror," Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director emeritus of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory.

"The First of the Sciences," Professor Arthur H. Compton, University of Chicago.

Dedication of the observatory, President J. W. Calhoun, of the University of Texas.

On Saturday there will be a symposium on "Galactic Structure." In the morning Professor S. A. Mitchell, of the McCormick Observatory, will preside, and Dr. J. H. Oort, of the Leiden Observatory, and Dr. R. J. Trumpler, of the University of California, will take part. In the afternoon the presiding officer will be Professor H. G. Gale, of the University of Chicago, and the speakers will be Dr. Otto Struve, of the Yerkes Observatory; Dr. Bart J. Bok, of the Harvard College Observatory; Dr. C. T. Elvey, of the McDonald Observatory, and Dr. G. P. Kuiper, of the Yerkes Observatory. Dr. E. A. Milne, of the University of Oxford, will speak on "Cosmological Theories" at the

evening session, over which Dr. Edwin Hubble, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, will preside.

A further symposium on "Galactic and Extragalactic Structure" will be held on Sunday presided over in the morning by Professor E. F. Carpenter, of the Steward Observatory, with Dr. Walter Baade, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, and Professor Harlow Shapley, of the Harvard College Observatory, as speakers. In the afternoon Dr. W. S. Adams, of the Mount Wilson Observatory; Dr. Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin, of the Harvard College Observatory; Dr. W. W. Morgan, Yerkes Observatory; Dr. Bertil Lindblad, Stockholm Observatory and Morrison research associate at the Lick Observatory, and Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, of the Yerkes Observatory, will take part in the discussion. In the evening Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, will preside, and Dr. Edwin Hubble, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, will be the speaker. In the final session on Monday morning Dr. W. H. Wright, of the Lick Observatory, will be the presiding officer, and the speakers will be Dr. Joel Stebbins, of Washburn Observatory, and Professor Henry Norris Russell, of Princeton University Observatory.

AWARD OF THE HILLEBRAND PRIZE OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE Hillebrand Prize of the Chemical Society of Washington, for 1938, has been awarded to Raleigh Gilchrist and Edward Wichers, of the National Bureau of Standards, for their paper entitled "A New System of Analytical Chemistry for the Platinum Metals," presented before the ninth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry at Madrid.

The work represents the first general advance in the analytical chemistry of the platinum group since Deville and Stas devised methods for the analysis of the platinum alloys used in fabricating the international prototype meter and kilogram, over sixty years ago. The new system enables the chemist to separate and determine these six closely related metals with a degree of accuracy equal to that of the more exact procedures used for the common metals.

Related procedures applied to refining have resulted in the preparation of the platinum metals in an exceptionally high degree of purity. These pure metals and some of their alloys are used to establish certain important standards based on natural constants, such as freezing points in the upper range of the temperature scale, standards of radiation, of electrical resistance and of thermal electromotive force.

The prize will be awarded at the annual dinner of the society, which will be held at the Cosmos Club on March 9.