

Grange for forty years, and was chairman of the Committee on Food of the New Haven War Bureau during the world war.

Dr. Britton began his professional work at a time when difficult insect problems were arising. Early in his career the San José scale was discovered in Connecticut. The gipsy moth presented further problems, both administrative and technical. It was followed by the Japanese beetle, the European corn-borer and the Oriental beetle. In addition came the task of organizing and administering mosquito control.

A long list of publications attest Dr. Britton's tireless professional activities. Outstanding among these are his thirty-eight annual reports on the insects of Connecticut, a comprehensive series of publications which are continually referred to by entomologists everywhere. Bulletins from his department of the experiment station include among others a plant pest handbook. Publications of the State Geological and Natural History Survey also are noteworthy, including a check list of the insects of Connecticut, a guide to the insects of Connecticut and monographs of the Euplexoptera and Orthoptera, the Hymenoptera, the Hemiptera and the Odonata. At the time of his death a monograph of the Diptera of Connecticut was being prepared. In addition to these various reports and bulletins, Dr. Britton was the author of many articles in farm papers and magazines.

Most of all, Dr. Britton was a helpful co-worker among entomologists, giving freely of his energies and always contributing the orderly judgment which was a part of his fine mental equipment. His service to his state was signally recognized on July 30, 1936, at the Farm and Home Week, when he was especially honored as a leader in agricultural and rural life.

W. C. O'KANE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. CHARLES RUPERT STOCKARD, professor of anatomy and head of the department at the Cornell University Medical College, died on April 7 at the age of sixty years.

DR. WILLIAM HALLOCK PARK, Hermann M. Biggs professor of preventive medicine at the New York University Medical School, formerly director of the Bureau of Laboratories of the Health Department of New York City, died suddenly on April 6 at the age of seventy-five years.

DR. JAMES CLIFTON EDGAR, emeritus professor of obstetrics at the Cornell University Medical College, died on April 7. He was in his eightieth year.

DR. WILLIAM C. THRO, from 1918 to 1937 professor of clinical pathology at the Cornell University Medical College, died on April 6. He was sixty-four years old.

DR. THOMAS S. BAKER, from 1922 to 1935, when he retired with the title emeritus, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, died on April 7 at the age of sixty-eight years.

ON the occasion of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Théodule Ribot, who played an important part in France in the establishment of a scientific psychology, a commemorative ceremony will be held in Paris in June. There will also be celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the chair in experimental psychology in the Collège de France, which was first held by Th. Ribot and later by Pierre Janet, and of the laboratory of physiological psychology at the Sorbonne, of which Dr. Alfred Binet was director.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### PATENT INQUIRY OF THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

THE Executive Committee of the American Engineering Council at its meeting on December 8 accepted the invitation of the National Industrial Conference Board to undertake a factual inquiry into the American Patent System. The inquiry is to be conducted by a separate special staff employed under direction of the Patents Committee of the American Engineering Council. The inquiry is to be financed from funds outside the present income of American Engineering Council, which are being provided by the National Industrial Conference Board.

The announcement of the plan was made by the

National Industrial Conference Board in the following statement:

A comprehensive investigation of the whole patent problem has just been started by the National Industrial Conference Board, independent fact-finding organization of management and labor. Technical phases of the investigation will be supervised by the Committee on Patents of the American Engineering Council, while the economic aspects will be analyzed by the conference board's economists under supervision of Dr. Robert F. Martin, director of the Economic Research Division of the board. Much work on the patent situation has already been done by the American Engineering Council Committee under the chairmanship of R. S. McBride, consulting chemical engineer. The other members of the committee are James

H. Critchett, general manager, Union Carbide and Carbon Research Laboratories, Inc.; William M. Grosvenor, consulting chemist and factory engineer; Frank B. Jewett, president, Bell Telephone Laboratories; Warner Seely, secretary, Warner and Swasey Company, and Kenneth H. Condit, executive assistant to the president, National Industrial Conference Board. Close cooperation with other organizations concerned with this problem is assured through representation on their patent committees by members of the board's staff.

Every phase of the patent problem will be studied by the experts of the Conference Board and Engineering Council. Five main headings are included in the outline of the inquiry. Under the general topic "Invention," there will be a study of the origins of inventions and a review of independent and organized invention. Such matters as costs, types of invention, work on inventions, use of patents and foreign experience will also be covered.

Perhaps the most important subject of the five concerns the social and economic effects of invention. Under this heading the effects on consumers, labor, capital and management will be studied in detail.

A third heading covers an examination of the patent system itself and the functioning of the Patent Office. Consequences of the patent system as shown by stimulation of invention and discovery are covered in another section. The final heading includes a critical review of the functioning of the patent system and of current criticisms and proposed reform.

This cooperative undertaking makes possible the fulfillment of recommendations made for such a fact-finding study earlier presented by the Patents Committee of the American Engineering Council to the Annual Assembly in 1937 and 1938, and approved by that body. The Patents Committee, at a meeting held in New York on December 9, approved of a detailed plan of procedure, and one division of the work has already been started. It is hoped that the complete undertaking will be finished within twelve months and that factual sections of the inquiry can be released before that time.

#### THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

THE British Medical Research Council has issued a statement calling attention to the fact that the large and rapidly increasing amount of published work on endocrinology by British investigators has, for some time past, made it desirable to bring together and to make available in a single British journal papers which are at present scattered among many different publications. It is pointed out that, though there may be doubts as to the desirability of any step which might seem to accentuate the division of the field of the medical and biological sciences into specialized departments and groups, the lack of a British journal specifically devoted to endocrinology leads to the overloading of journals having other and more general

interests, and is producing a position of increasing difficulty for those who have work on endocrinology to publish, as well as for those who need ready access to the published work in this field. The editorial boards of a large number of British journals have been asked for their views on the matter and are, without exception, favorable to the foundation of such a journal.

A committee has therefore been formed for the promotion of a new journal to be called the *Journal of Endocrinology*, in the first instance to be published quarterly. The members of this promoting committee, who will act as a committee of management, are: Dr. P. M. F. Bishop, Professor F. A. E. Crew, Sir Henry Dale, Professor E. C. Dodds, Professor C. R. Harington, Professor G. F. Marrian, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, Dr. A. S. Parkes, Dr. F. G. Young and Dr. S. Zuckerman. They have appointed Professor E. C. Dodds as editor, to be assisted by an editorial board consisting of Dr. P. M. F. Bishop, Professor C. R. Harington, Dr. A. S. Parkes, Dr. F. G. Young and Dr. S. Zuckerman. Dr. R. L. Noble has been appointed assistant editor.

The scope of the *Journal of Endocrinology* is defined as the publication of communications which advance knowledge concerning the internally secreting glands, the mode of their actions, the nature of their secretions and the disorders of their functions.

#### TOUR OF THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A TOUR of industrial research laboratories for members and guests of the Industrial Research Institute will precede a two-day convocation in the building of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, has been announced by Maurice Holland, executive officer for the institute.

The institute, an affiliate of the National Research Council, will begin its visit to industrial laboratories on Tuesday, May 16, and will conclude the trip with a luncheon at the Hotel Mayflower in Washington on Saturday, May 20.

The group will assemble on Tuesday, May 16, at Canton, Ohio, where the first visit of the four-day trip will be at the laboratories of the Hoover Company. H. Earl Hoover, vice-president of the Hoover Company, is vice-chairman of the institute. From Canton the party will proceed to Pittsburgh, where they will make an all-day inspection of the laboratories and plant of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. The host there will be H. W. Graham, chairman of the executive committee of the institute, and chief metallurgist for the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. The value of research in the steel industry is being determined by practical results in the pilot plant research and development laboratories at the Jones and