

Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the South Dakota Academy of Science and Sigma Xi.

Professor Atkinson made many lasting friendships among his colleagues, and was a continual source of help and inspiration to his students, many of whom he helped obtain financial support for the continuation of their studies. Although his life was short, his fundamental contributions in pharmacology and physiology assure his work a permanent place in the literature of these sciences. His widow, Bertha Hartmann Atkinson, and two daughters survive him.

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RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WARREN PLIMPTON LOMBARD, for thirty-one years professor of physiology at the School of Medicine of the University of Michigan, died on July 13 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. FREDERICK P. GAY, since 1923 professor of bacteriology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, died on July 14, aged sixty-five years.

DR. JOHN H. McFADDEN, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, died on May 28. He was in his forty-first year.

DR. DONALD CLINTON BARTON, since 1935 research

and consulting geologist and geophysicist for the Humble Oil and Refining Company at Houston, Texas, died on July 8 at the age of fifty years. He was president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

HAVELOCK ELLIS, author and sociologist, known for his researches in the psychology of sex, died on July 8 at the age of eighty years.

DR. E. KIDSON, since 1927 director of the Meteorological Services of New Zealand, has died at the age of fifty-seven years.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association a bronze plaque, the gift of an anonymous donor, has been presented to the St. Louis Medical Society in honor of the late Dr. Nathaniel Allison, at one time dean of the School of Medicine of Washington University. The bronze plaque is the work of Carl C. Mose.

Nature states that a portrait of James Watt was unveiled by Sir Nigel Gresley at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers during the course of a reception held on June 9. The portrait represents Watt at fifty-seven years of age; it was painted in 1792 by Charles Frederick von Breda, and was acquired by the institution from the family of John Rennie in 1936. During the reception, a formal announcement was made of the award of the James Watt International Medal to Henry Ford, and an address was delivered by the American Ambassador.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ANNUAL FIELD DAY OF THE ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

ACCORDING to an article in *Nature* the annual field day and inspection of the laboratories was held at Rothamsted on June 28, with Lord Radnor, chairman of the Lawes Agricultural Trust Committee, presiding. There was a large attendance representing agriculture and the allied industries. Sir E. Kaye le Fleming, chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, was the chief guest.

In his survey of the activities of the station, Sir John Russell mentioned that some work had already been carried out in the Dunn Nutritional Laboratories at Cambridge on certain aspects of the vitamin content of the produce of the Rothamsted plots. But so far there has been no confirmation of the view frequently expressed that the nutritive value of produce grown with organic manure is superior to that grown with artificial fertilizers. The produce of the classical fields should provide excellent material for settling points such as these.

An increasing amount of experimental work at Rothamsted is concerned with the action and value of organic manures. Studies are in progress with straw in

its many forms, with turf obtained by the ploughing up of grassland, with green manures and with town refuse. An extensive investigation of poultry manure has been completed, and work on wastes and sewage sludge is in prospect. So far, yield determinations have been the chief measurements; but the much more difficult questions of quality and nutritional value can scarcely be ignored.

The tour of the farm, always an important part of the proceedings, affords an unrivalled combination of the oldest and the newest in field experimentation. Broadbalk, carrying an excellent crop of wheat this year, showed the striking effects of the manurial treatments begun by Lawes and Gilbert ninety-six years ago and continued ever since, the plots gaining rather than losing interest from the periodical bare fallows recently superimposed upon them. The field is studied now, not simply as a demonstration of manurial principles, but as a guide to the practical problems of corn growing under semi-continuous conditions.

Passing on to the modern experiments, the visitors inspected several of the new designs set out to measure fertilizer effects on a sequence of crops.

An indoor program followed. Investigations in the

laboratories link up with the farm work in many directions. Thus "take-all," one of the foot-rot diseases of cereals, is intensively studied in the Plant Pathology Department, where many of the conditions of the survival of the fungus in the soil have been worked out, and control methods are being developed. In the Entomological Department a technique for measuring the wire-worm population of the soil has been perfected and used to assess the value of the various soil insecticides tested in the plots. Various methods put forward for predicting the manurial requirements of soils on the basis of their chemical analyses are being examined in the Chemical Department. A wider range of soils than the Rothamsted Farm can provide is necessary for this work, and in recent years an increasing number of outside centers have been established, each providing the results of a precise and comprehensive fertilizer test and the corresponding sample of soil for laboratory examination.

The Rothamsted Centenary is due in 1943, and the committee proposes to celebrate it by putting the laboratories, farm buildings and other equipment into complete order for the work that awaits them. The director announced the present position of the Appeal Fund, and said that although good progress has been made in very difficult times, £7,000 is required to complete the first part of the scheme costing £60,000.

ENGLISH NEUROLOGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE opening of a new well-equipped building for investigation into the causes of mental defects and abnormalities and borderline conditions which has been opened at Bristol by the secretary of state for the Dominions in the presence of a distinguished company of neurologists is described in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. It is called the Burden Neurological Research Institute because it has been made possible by the cooperation of Mrs. R. G. Burden, warden of Stoke Park Colony for Mental Deficients, within the grounds of which the new building has been erected. Professor Golla is to be the director, and the staff will consist of Grey Walter, electrophysiology; Dr. Max Reiss, a Czech endocrinologist; N. S. L. MacLeod and A. Tingey, biochemists, and Dr. Wylie McKissock, visiting surgeon.

Among those present was Dr. P. O'Brien, representative in Paris of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has made a generous contribution to the neurosurgical department. The Medical Research Council has also made a grant in support of some of the research work. The director, Professor Golla, said that only those who had realized how the multiplicity of competing claims hampered the work of the large hospital clinics would fully appreciate the advantages of

such a research institute, which was equipped in the very best way for the investigation not only of the functions of the nervous system but of the body as a whole. In the preoccupation with the brain there was some tendency to forget the bodily stratum of mental disease. It was intended to take a few carefully selected cases and investigate them by every means available to electrophysiologic and endocrinologic research. An immediate occupation would be the study of the varied group of pathologic states of the brain which were responsible for epileptic seizures. What the neurologist called epilepsy was the least understood of the common nervous diseases. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that our knowledge had received little addition since the time of Galen until certain researches, carried out chiefly in America and England, had given hints for further investigation. There were now good grounds for hoping that certain electrophysical methods would enable us to understand and combat this distressing disease.

THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

THE Case Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi held its annual initiation on the evening of June 2. Twenty-eight students were elected to full membership. Officers elected for the next year were Professor Francis Whitacre, *president*; Professor Robert Shankland, *vice-president*; Dean T. M. Focke, *treasurer*, and Professor Richard S. Burington, *secretary*. Following the ceremonies, at which Professor G. E. Barnes, retiring president, presided, Dr. Zay Jeffries, technical director of the Incandescent Lamp Department of the General Electric Company, spoke on "New Light Sources."

The Sigma Xi Club of Peking held its annual meeting on May 4. Dr. Eugene L. Opie, of Cornell University Medical College, was the guest speaker. He gave an address on "The Study of Tuberculosis." New officers were elected as follows: *President*, Professor K. P. Young, Peiping Research Institute; *Vice-president*, Dr. H.-C. Chang, Peiping Union Medical College; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Peter P. T. Sah, Fu Ren University. The printed membership list of the club gives the number of active resident members as twenty-nine with twenty-seven non-resident members.

A Sigma Xi Club of Hawaii has been formed, with a charter membership of fifty. The first officers are: *President*, Dr. C. J. Hamre; *Vice-president*, Dr. Martha Potgieter; *Secretary-treasurer*, Dr. S. S. Ballard; *Councillors*, Dr. H. E. Gregory and C. E. Pemberton. The first regular meeting of the club was held on June 7 at the University of Hawaii, when Dr. R. N. Perlstein, of Leahi Home, spoke on "Epidemiological Study of Tuberculosis Families in Hawaii."