

end of the railroad at Moosonee (Moose Factory), Ontario.

During the summer there were collected 1,336 numbers of flowering plants and about 400 numbers of lower plants, the number of herbarium specimens being about 8,000. In addition, about 250 tree borings and wood specimens from 80 trees were collected by John Marr for a study of tree growth climatic correlations.

The party was composed of Dr. Ernst C. Abbe, Mrs. Lucy B. Abbe and Mr. John Marr, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

The expedition was supported by funds from the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, supplemented with liberal grants from the National Academy of Sciences (Bache Fund), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society, the Smithsonian Institution, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the Minnesota Academy of Sciences.

ERNST C. ABBE

#### THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

THE Executive Board of the American Library Association on October 3 arranged for the appointment of a Joint Committee on Foreign Importations to act on behalf of the association and also of the Medical Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of College and Reference Libraries. One or two other organizations may join in the project later. The following, of whom the first four form the executive committee, have accepted appointment to membership in the committee:

Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, *chairman*.

Robert Lingel, New York Public Library, *vice-chairman*.

Keyes D. Metcalf, Harvard University Library.

Thomas Paul Fleming, Medical Library, Columbia University.

Dr. William Warner Bishop, General Library, University of Michigan.

Lawrence Heyl, Princeton University Library.

Bernhard Knollenberg, Yale University Library.

Harold L. Leupp, University of California Library.

Dr. Phineas Lawrence Windsor, University of Illinois Library.

Messrs. Lydenberg and Lingel conferred in Washington on November 4 with Dr. Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, and B. L. Hunt, assistant legal adviser of the Department of State. Dr. MacLeish assured them of the willingness of the Library of Congress to aid American Libraries if it became necessary to lay their case before diplomatic authorities. Mr.

Hunt is acquainted with the library situation. He agreed to consider on behalf of the Department of State any statements forwarded by the Library of Congress and to see that action was taken through appropriate channels as the circumstances might warrant.

Present conditions facing American libraries may be summarized as follows: publications of all kinds will be irregular because of war conditions; shipments are subject not only to wind and weather but to transportation irregularities both on sea and land. So far as the committee can learn, however, no embargo on shipments of books and periodicals has been laid. Restrictions on exports of books from Italy were limited to a short period after the war began. On September 28, the Department of State cabled to the American Embassy in London, with a view to making some general arrangement for the transmission of general publications from Germany. As soon as a reply has been received by the Department of State, the committee will be advised. There seems, however, at the present time, to be no difficulty in exporting books and periodicals from Germany in neutral vessels. The report states that agents seem so far to have been able to make their shipments with no more delays or difficulties than one must expect under such circumstances. Further announcements will be made by the committee which has its headquarters at 476 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The American Documentation Institute of the library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, requests that failure by a subscriber to receive European scientific journals be reported promptly. The cultural relations committee of the institute hopes to be able to surmount such war obstacles as interrupted transportation, embargoes and censorship, which seriously affected the progress of research during the last war. It is hoped that the principle will be established that materials of research having no relation to war shall continue to pass freely, regardless of the countries of origin or destination. Reports with full details of where subscription was placed and name and address of subscriber, volume, date and number of the last issue received should be addressed to the American Documentation Institute, Bibliofilm Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C.

#### LECTURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DURING the academic year 1938-39 and the summer of 1939 the following speakers from out of town gave talks before faculty members and graduate students of the department of physics at the University of Wisconsin:

November 23, Dr. L. N. Ridenour, University of Pennsylvania, Artificial Radioactivities.

J. Schwinger, Columbia University, The  $[\sigma_1\sigma_2 - 3(\sigma_1r)(\sigma_2r)r^{-2}]J(r)$  terms and the quadrupole moment of  $H^2$ .

December 2, Professor Otto Struve, Yerkes Observatory, Interstellar Absorption and Emission.

December 14, Professor S. Chandrasekhar, Yerkes Observatory, Stellar Structure and Stellar Energy.

December 16, Dr. K. K. Darrow, Bell Telephone Laboratories, History of the Mesotron.

January 6, Dr. D. P. Johnson, U. S. Bureau of Standards, Mercurial Thermometers.

April 4, Professor I. I. Rabi, Columbia University, Experiments with Molecular Beams on Nuclear Magnetic Moments.

Dr. M. Goldhaber, University of Illinois, Slow Neutron Boron Reaction.

April 14, Professor L. Brillouin, Collège de France, Spins and Statistics of Elementary Particles.

May 12, Professor R. S. Mulliken, University of Chicago, Intensities of Electronic Transitions and the Color of Organic Compounds.

May 19, Professor A. Ellett, State University of Iowa, The  $D + D \rightarrow H_1 + H_2$  Reactions. Dependence of Angular Distribution and Cross Section upon Energy.

May 25, Professor A. H. Compton, University of Chicago, The Production and Disintegration of Mesotrons.

June 7, Dr. E. Feenberg, New York University, Canonical Transformations for Field Theories.

July 3, Dr. S. A. Korff, Bartol Foundation, Neutrons in Cosmic Radiation.

July 12, Professor Otto Struve and Dr. L. G. Henyey, Yerkes Observatory, Spectroscopic Evidence Regarding Interstellar Matter.

July 19, Professor T. W. Bonner, Rice Institute, Recent Work in Nuclear Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory.

#### AWARD OF THE JOHN FRITZ GOLD MEDAL

THE posthumous award of the 1940 John Fritz Gold Medal to Dr. Clarence Floyd Hirshfeld, who until his death on April 19 of this year was chief of research of the Detroit Edison Company, has been announced.

The medal, given annually for notable scientific or industrial achievement by a board composed of sixteen representatives of the four national societies of civil, mining and metallurgical, mechanical and electrical engineers, was given to Dr. Hirshfeld "for notable leadership through research and development in power generation and electric traction, and for being a great teacher and friend of men both young and old."

Modernization of the electric street-car completely from trolley wire to track is among the many advances in engineering credited to Dr. Hirshfeld. His career extended over thirty-six years and included teaching, writing and direction of research work. He was born in San Francisco on January 30, 1881. From 1903 to 1914 he taught at Sibley College of Cornell University, becoming professor of mechanical

engineering. In 1913 he organized for the Detroit Edison Company what is thought to be the first research department established and maintained by an electrical city supply company, where he became chief of research.

Dr. Hirshfeld was chief engineer of the Electric Railway Presidents' Conference Committee. He was the author of many books and articles on technical subjects, dealing principally with thermodynamics, steam power and problems of the transit industry. He was a member of the American Committee of the World Power Conference and of the U. S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission. He also served on the board of national councilors of the Purdue Research Foundation and on the advisory council of Yenching University. He was the first chairman of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development, and belonged to many scientific societies.

Dr. Hirshfeld was being considered as a candidate for the Fritz Medal at the time of his death. The award was, therefore, made posthumously.

#### RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, president emeritus of Cornell University, who was from 1903 to 1914 professor of anthropology at Columbia University, died on November 8 at the age of seventy-two years.

DR. WILLIAM H. BROWN, lecturer in botany at the Johns Hopkins University, previously from 1924 to 1933 director of the Bureau of Science at Manila, P. I., in charge of scientific investigations for the Philippines, died on November 9. He was fifty-five years old.

DR. FREDERICK ADAMS WOODS, formerly lecturer in biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who since 1927 has lived in Rome, died on November 5 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ALFRED ALEXANDER DIXON, professor of physics at the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, died on October 15 at the age of fifty-three years.

WILLIAM ARTHUR COWAN, who served for forty years as chemist of the National Lead Company, died on October 27 at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. L. O. ELLISOR, assistant entomologist at the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, died on October 21 at the age of twenty-nine years. Bullion A. Osterberger, also assistant entomologist at the station, died on May 20.

DR. RALPH ALLEN SAMPSON, Astronomer-Royal for Scotland from 1910 to 1937, professor of astronomy at the University of Edinburgh, died on November 10 at the age of seventy-three years.