sity of Colorado, died on November 30 at the age of eighty-one years.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK NEWTON WILLSON, emeritus professor of descriptive geometry, stereotomy and technical drawing at Princeton University, died on November 15. He was eighty-three years old.

PROFESSOR R. V. WHEELER, professor of fuel technology in the University of Sheffield, died on October 28 at the age of fifty-three years.

DR. WILFRED TROTTER, professor of surgery at the University College Hospital Medical School and surgeon to the University College Hospital, London, died on November 25 at the age of sixty-seven years.

A PORTRAIT of the late Professor Henry Smith, formerly dean of the School of Mines of Columbia University, painted by H. E. Ogden Campbell, was unveiled in the Low Memorial Library on November 27.

A MEETING dedicated to the memory of Dr. William Hallock Park, emeritus professor of medicine in the New York University College of Medicine until his retirement in 1936 and director of the Bureau of Laboratories of the New York City Department of Health, was held on November 28 at the New York Academy of Medicine. The speakers included: Mayor La Guardia; Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, chancellor of New York University; Dr. Malcolm Goodridge, president of the academy; Dr. Anna W. Williams, formerly assistant director of the Health Department Bacteriology Laboratories under Dr. Park, and Dr. Augustus B. Wadsworth, director of laboratories and research for the New York State Department of Health.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

A REPORT on "Present Status and Trends of Engineering Education in the United States," by Dr. Dugald C. Jackson, emeritus professor of engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been issued by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development, with the aid of funds supplied by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The report is one of the valuable by-products of the task of accrediting curricula in engineering undertaken by the Committee on Engineering Schools of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

Dr. Jackson's report may be divided roughly into four parts. An appendix has been provided by Allen W. Horton, Jr., who acted as secretary to the committee during the period in which the accrediting procedure was developed and put to the test, and the data collected. In the early chapters of the report Dr. Jackson traces the history of developments that led up to the accrediting program, summarizes the well-known Mann, Wickenden and Potter reports that have played important roles in that development, and sketches briefly the status of engineering education in America in 1939. He next turns his attention to the Committee on Engineering Schools of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development, to the procedure it adopted in its task of accrediting curricula and to comments on some of the perplexing problems it had to face and the progress of the committee's own thinking and methods that resulted from actually coming to grips with these problems.

The data themselves, which cover 679 curricula in 139 institutions, assembled, coordinated and analyzed in the form of tables and charts, with Dr. Jackson's comments, occupy the third portion of the report. These data were gathered for the purpose of the accrediting program, which they usefully served, but they constituted a store of information of value to engineers and educators, and were so fruitful for the improvement of engineering education that the committee was able to secure from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching the funds necessary to put them in shape for public use.

As to the present status, Dr. Jackson provides a convenient summary in the following passages quoted from the report:

> It is reasonable to say that the majority of the substantially one hundred and sixty engineering schools in the United States are now in a sound status and are wide-awake to improve their effectiveness. The principal defects in the quality of faculties are perhaps a lack of recognition of the unity of learning in science and in political economy as applied in engineering, an inadequate espousal of professional ideals as distinguished from either craftsmanship or speculative philosophy, a failure to impress on all students that a successful engineer's life demands continuous study throughout its length, and a failure to dovetail the curricula into political economy on one side as thoroughly as they are dovetailed into physical science on the other. . . . Part of the onus for the defects named may be appropriately laid at the doors of administrative officers. . . . There is an additional fault . . . which is the failure to recognize that the proper use of research vitalizes all levels of engineering education, from the sophomore undergraduate level to the most advanced levels, which makes it a requisite and important factor in such education.

THE ALASKA FISHERIES EXPERIMENTAL COMMISSION

AN Alaska Fisheries Experimental Commission has

been organized with an appropriation from the Legislature of $20,000 for cooperation in the establishment of a fishery products laboratory in Alaska.

The members of the commission are the governor of Alaska, Dr. Ernest Gruening; J. W. Mendenhall, of Ketchikan, member for industry, and Seton H. Thompson, member for the bureau. At a meeting on August 20 Governor Troy, who has since resigned, was elected chairman and Mr. Mendenhall, secretary. It was then decided to enter into a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries for the operation of the laboratory.

At this meeting it was also decided to establish the office of the commission at the laboratory building in Ketchikan, when constructed, and Mr. Mendenhall was designated as liaison officer with authority to consult appropriate officials of the Bureau of Fisheries regarding construction, maintenance and operation.

A site has been selected on which to construct the laboratory, and the sum of $50,000 has been allocated for this purpose by the Public Works Administration. The building will be approximately 60,000 cubic feet in size.

The laboratory will serve as headquarters for the Alaska technical and economic research staff, who will conduct studies on the capture, preservation and marketing of Alaska fishery products.

In general, it is proposed to conduct research along the following lines:

Improvement of processes and methods of capture, handling and preserving of species now utilized.

Development of new methods for processing species now utilized.

Preparation of useful commodities from species not utilized.

The purpose of this work will be to extend the processing or fishing season over a longer period of the year. At present most of the fishing and packing business is done in the summer.

THE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE

THE Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve at Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, was incorporated in 1931. The purpose of the preserve, as outlined in the certificate of incorporation, is to

preserve the natural beauty of Rensselaerville Falls, Lake Myosotis, Lincoln Pond and the lands around them in the town of Rensselaerville; to increase the general knowledge and love of nature, particularly that of trees and wildlife, by maintaining a demonstration of reforesting and forest culture, and by providing means for increasing and protecting the birds, wild animals and fish within the boundaries of said land.

The preserve covers nearly a square mile of diversified habitats. Two lakes, one of eighty acres, numerous streams, dense beech-hemlock stands and arable fields provide a diverse attraction for the naturalist. The elevation is 1,650 feet above sea. As a preliminary step to the possible establishment of a biological station on the preserve a study of the biota was made during the summers of 1937 and 1938.

Three fellowships (two of three months each and one for the entire year) have been provided, the recipients to conduct basic zoological investigations in the field of animal behavior or ecology. Donald Griffin, of Harvard University, and Dr. E. C. Raney, of Cornell University, were awarded the 1939 summer fellowships. Dr. Eugene P. Odum, a graduate of the University of Illinois, has accepted the post of resident naturalist for 1940.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee are Dr. W. J. Hamilton, Jr., *chairman;* Dr. Lewis A. Eldridge; Dr. John R. Greeley; Dr. G. Kingsley Noble; Dr. Thomas Ordway and William Vogt. Inquiries regarding the Biological Research Division should be addressed to W. J. Hamilton, Jr., Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

AWARDS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THERE have already been given in SCIENCE the names of those who received the awards of the Royal Geographical Society at the annual meeting in London on June 26. The citations made by Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, president of the society, follow:

With the approval of His Majesty, the Founder's Medal has been awarded to Mr. Arthur M. Champion. Mr. Champion has spent thirty years in East Africa, largely in the administrative service of Kenya. For some years he was in administrative charge of the Turkana Province. On his appointment, Mr. Champion made it his duty to carry out the first systematic survey of the Province on a trigonometrical framework, producing a valuable map in six sheets on the scale of 1/250,000. In addition to this he investigated the physical geography and geology of the area, and more particularly of Teleki's Volcano and the lava fields south of Lake Rudolf. He has communicated the results of his work in valuable papers to the society, and has recently shown to us the film which he made on a motor journey across Africa from Cape Verde to Nairobi, carried out after he had retired from the Colonial Service. Mr. Champion has now made his home in Kenya, and we look forward to further contributions from him on the geography of East Africa.

His Majesty the King has approved of the award of the Patron's Medal to Professor Hans Ahlmann, of the University of Stockholm, for his exploration and glaciological studies in the Arctic. He has specialized in studying the work of ice and snow and for this purpose he organized and led the two Swedish-Norwegian expeditions to Spitsbergen in 1931 and 1934, and the Swedish-Icelandic expedition to Vatnajökull in 1936–37. The many important