

President, Dr. S. C. Prescott, dean of science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Vice-president*, Dr. Roy C. Newton, chief chemist of the Swift Company, Chicago; *Secretary-treasurer*, Dr. G. J. Hucker, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

The membership of the institute includes chemists, bacteriologists, process engineers and others similarly trained or experienced in the manufacture, preservation and handling of food. Graduation from a college or a university with majors in at least two such sciences as chemistry, physics, biology, micro-biology and engineering in relation to food handling and processing is regarded as a desirable prerequisite for membership, but those having experience of at least three years in some type of technological work will be accepted, also distinguished students of food technology, whether or not they have had technical training, are eligible. Those who are active in special limited aspects of food technology and those scientifically trained for a career in the food industry are eligible for affiliate membership.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FERDINAND ELLERMAN, who since 1905 had been associated with the Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, from 1913 until his retirement in 1937 as astronomer, died in his seventy-first year on March 20.

DR. WILLIAM GIBSON SPILLER, emeritus professor of neurology at the School of Medicine of the University

of Pennsylvania, died on March 19 in his seventy-seventh year.

DR. THOMAS DRYSDALE BUCHANAN, professor of anesthesia and director of the department of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, Columbia University, died on March 21 at the age of sixty-four years.

SIR PATRICK PLAYFAIR LAIDLAW, deputy director of the British National Institute for Medical Research and head of its department of experimental pathology, died on March 20 at the age of fifty-eight years.

EDOUARD BRANLY, professor of physics in the Institut Catholique, Paris, died on March 24 at the age of ninety-five years. He was the discoverer of the principle of the coherer, one of the first successful devices used as a detector of wireless signals.

THE death at the age of seventy-six years is reported in *Nature* of J. H. Michell, professor of mathematics from 1923 to 1928 at the University of Melbourne, since 1938 honorary research professor of mathematics; and of E. Soler, emeritus professor of theoretical geodesy at the University of Padua, a vice-president of the International Association of Geodesy.

DR. MICHAL SIEDLECKI, professor of zoology, has died in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He was one of the hundred and sixty-four professors of Cracow University who were arrested and sent there at the beginning of November, 1939.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE seventy-seventh annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held on April 22, 23 and 24, in Washington, under the presidency of Dr. Frank B. Jewett. The committee on arrangements is composed of Drs. Vannevar Bush, F. G. Cottrell, Frank B. Jewett, G. L. Streeter, Charles Thom, T. Wayland Vaughan and F. E. Wright, *chairman*.

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held on April 18, 19 and 20, beginning at 10 A.M., on Thursday under the presidency of Roland S. Morris.

THE Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific was presented to Dr. Frederick H. Seares, assistant director of Mount Wilson Observatory, at a meeting of the society on March 18. Dr. C. Donald Shane, professor of astrophysics in the University of California and president of the society, made the presentation.

THE prize of \$1,000 in biological chemistry of the Eli Lilly and Company for 1940 has been awarded by the American Chemical Society to Dr. Eric Glendinning Ball, an associate of the Johns Hopkins

School of Medicine, for chemical studies of certain biological substances, including the hormone adrenalin and vitamins B₂ and C. Dean Samuel Colville Lind, of the University of Minnesota, president of the society, will present the prize to Dr. Ball, a former Guggenheim fellow, at the opening session of the ninety-ninth meeting of the society in Cincinnati on April 8. Dr. Ball will present the paper for which the award was made, entitled "The Nature of the Enzyme, Xanthine Oxidase," as part of a Symposium on Vitamins and Nutrition to be held on April 10.

AT the recent Founders Day Convocation celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Case School of Applied Science at Cleveland, the doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. Philip M. Morse, professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wilbert J. Austin, president of the engineering and construction company bearing his name, was awarded the doctorate of engineering. Both Dr. Morse and Mr. Austin are graduates of the Case School.

A DINNER was given on March 2 in honor of Dr. A.