That his interest in sensory education never diminished is attested by the fact that now, annually, approximately 40,000 pupils receive formal instruction here and are provided with the privilege of examining, individually, specimens of commercial, art and natural history material. His educational activities went much further, for even before his election to the school board in 1939, he was very influential in the determination of local policies.

But, however great his achievements in these various fields may have been, Dr. Mengel meant much more than "scientist" or "educator" to his friends and associates. They knew him as a man whose very life was his work, as one who labored to a late hour nearly every night, who did not know the meaning of holiday, of week-end or of vacation. They all knew him as a man of courage, of great loyalty, steadfast both to his friends and to his ideals and principles. Many of them were acquainted with him as philanthropist and benefactor; how many students were enabled to complete their education, how many persons were assisted through financial difficulties by his generosity, will never be known.

He was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, on September 27, 1868. He entered the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1891. On June 6 of the same year he sailed from Brooklyn as entomologist on an expedition with Admiral Robert Peary to west Greenland. After he had been associated with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia from 1891–93, he joined the teaching staff of the Boys High School of Reading in 1894, becoming vice principal in 1902. It was at this time that he first conceived the idea of a museum and first began acquiring materials for it. Finally, he was given permission by the board of school directors to establish a museum in the Administration Building and in 1915 he was relieved of his teaching duties and made its director. In this capacity he served until his retirement on June 30, 1939, when he was made director emeritus and was succeeded by Earl L. Poole.

LAWRENCE S. DILLON
READING PUBLIC MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR EMERITUS RANSOM ASA MOORE, until 1936 professor of agronomy and head of the department of the University of Wisconsin, died on February 26. He was in his eightieth year.

DR. SOLON SHEDD, curator of the Branner Geological Library at Stanford University from 1925 to 1940, died on March 4, at the age of eighty years. He was formerly state geologist of Washington and professor of geology at the Washington State College.

CARY LEROY HILL, associate director of the Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Berkeley, Calif., died on February 26 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. CLAUDE ADELBERT BURRETT, president of the New York Medical College and Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, died on March 3 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. G. VAN DIJK, of the Royal Meteorological Institute of the Netherlands, died suddenly on December 19. A correspondent writes: "His death will be mourned by his colleagues in all parts of the world by whom he was held in high esteem because of his high scientific attainments and his great personal charm."

Nature reports the death of Father Guido Alfani, the Italian seismologist, aged sixty-four years, and of Dr. Philipp Broemser, professor of physiology and rector of the University of Munich, formerly professor of physiology in the University of Basle, at the age of fifty-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

ACCORDING to the annual report of Dr. George W. Bachman, director of the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan under the auspices of Columbia University, a new division of public health has been established.

Funds for the maintenance of the department will be derived from an appropriation granted to Puerto Rico under the National Social Security Act. The department will function in cooperation with the Insular Department of Health, the University of Puerto Rico, the DeLamar Institute and the United States Public Health Service. The establishment of this new division of studies is the culmination of years of careful planning, followed by a series of conferences with the authorities representing the cooperating organizations.

Dr. Bachman reports that in spite of a lack in necessary personnel and the means to meet a number of new problems, the work of the school, which was founded in 1926, has progressed rapidly in the past year. Special emphasis was placed on the research programs, even though plans were outlined for a broader teaching schedule.

The University Hospital, opened last March after a three-year period of reconstruction, now meets all standard requirements of modern hospitalization and

provides the best facilities for the care and treatment of the sick.

A new library building is nearing completion. A recent grant of $13,500 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York has been made for equipment. The total cost of construction and equipment approximated $310,482. On the third floor are comfortable quarters for resident physicians and professors visiting the school. The library is affiliated with the American Medical Library Association, the Medical Library of Columbia University and several private agencies. Journals of medicine and of the allied sciences currently on file total 274. Accessions are in excess of 5,000.

Another new unit, the Physiology Building, affords additional facilities for training and research. Foremost among the cooperative projects with agencies within and outside the island is the continuation of the study on the nutritive values of forage crops, financed with funds released through the Bankhead-Jones Act and sponsored by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Rio Piedras.

The Department of Bacteriology is working jointly with the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Puerto Rico on problems dealing with the supply of milk and the incidence of infection caused by the intestinal bacteria Brucella on the island. The cooperative project on glandular tuberculosis has been continued with the Department of Health. The study on the incidence of syphilis in Puerto Rico, conducted in collaboration with the biological laboratory of the Department of Health, has been completed.

Steady progress can be reported in the work of measuring the daily variation in solar radiation, supervised by the department of physics of the university. The epidemiological survey of St. Thomas and St. Croix, initiated last year under the auspices of the American Leprosy Association, in which the Department of Bacteriology has taken an active part, is now nearing completion.

A large series of strains of beta-hemolytic streptococci, isolated in Puerto Rico, were under study during the year. Study of the biology of pneumococci isolated in Puerto Rico was continued and showed that pneumococci are found in a high percentage of normal throats of apparently healthy persons, especially during the months of February, March and April.

Another study dealt with the physical impairments of adult life among agricultural workers.

Concluding his report, which discussed nearly fifty research projects, Dr. Bachman declared that new sources of income must be found to meet the demands of ever-widening interests. For long-time planning and to take care of a permanent annual operating budget of $450,000, an endowment from other sources is needed.

The special board of trustees of the school includes Dr. Jose M. Gallardo, Commissioner of Education of Puerto Rico, *chairman;* Isidoro Colon, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; Dr. Jose F. Capo, member of the board of trustees of the University of Puerto Rico; Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the Columbia University School of Medicine and Commissioner of Hospitals of the City of New York, and Dr. Bachman. Mr. Colon succeeded Francisco Lopez Dominguez on the board.

Members of the special committee of Columbia University are Dr. Rappleye, Dr. Harry S. Mustard, director of the DeLamar Institute, and Professors James W. Jobling, Allen O. Whipple, A. Raymond Dochez, Gary N. Calkins, Earl T. Engle and Magnus I. Gregersen.

THE AMERICAN HEALTH UNIT IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE London *Times* of February 6 gives the following particulars in regard to the public health unit set up in Great Britain under the auspices of Harvard University and the American Red Cross, an announcement of which has already appeared in SCIENCE. The *Times* writes:

With the consent of the president of Harvard University, Dr. J. E. Gordon, Charles Wilder professor of preventive medicine and epidemiology, has accepted Malcolm MacDonald's invitation to act as United States Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Health.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Harvard University appointed a committee to consider how the university could contribute material or professional help to a cause closely concerned with its interests. The possible nature of this help was conceived in the broadest terms, with the suggestion that it might be in the fields of economics, medicine, sociology, public health, law, and perhaps other fields. Through an exchange of opinion between authorities of the university and colleagues in Great Britain, it later became evident that help in the fields of public health and medicine was most clearly in point.

As a consequence Harvard University made a formal offer in June, 1940, to the Minister of Health, which Mr. Malcolm MacDonald gratefully accepted, to equip and maintain in Great Britain a public health unit for the study and control of communicable disease. The purposes of the unit were defined as: To lend material aid to a friendly nation; to investigate communicable disease under unusual military and civil conditions, and to obtain medical information of value to the national defense of America.

The unit as originally conceived was to include a group of workers concerned with field studies in epidemiology, and a laboratory for the study of associated problems. British authorities early pointed out the desirability of