

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FREDERIC WILLIAM SIMONDS, who retired as professor of geology at the University of Texas in 1936, died on March 26 at the age of eighty-seven years. He joined the faculty of the university as associate professor in 1890.

DR. WAYNE J. ATWELL, professor of anatomy and head of the department at the University of Buffalo, died on March 27 in his fifty-second year.

NATHAN RICHARD GEORGE, professor emeritus of mathematics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on March 26 in his seventy-sixth year. He had been associated with the institute since 1891, when he was appointed an instructor in mathematics.

DR. J. R. BAILEY, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Texas, died on March 25, in his seventy-second year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GIFT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY BY THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

OWING to the fact that scientific societies in Great Britain are now finding it difficult to publish the results of researches which have been carried on by their members, the American Philosophical Society, through its Committees on Publications and Finance, authorized the setting aside of \$10,000 from its budget for the aid of science and learning in Great Britain, and the president of the society inquired of the British Embassy whether the Royal Society of London would accept a gift to be used in aid of science and learning in Great Britain. Word was received through the office of the Consul General of Philadelphia that the Royal Society of London would gratefully accept the generous gift of the American Philosophical Society. Accordingly, the society cabled \$10,000 to the Royal Society and a letter was forwarded by air mail expressing the hope that they would use this sum where it might be of most service in aid of science and learning in Britain and closing with these words: "We make this gift in filial regard for the Royal Society which was the model upon which Benjamin Franklin in 1743 founded the American Philosophical Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge Among the British Plantations in America and as evidence of the spirit of friendship and good will among men of science in both countries." A radiogram has been received from the Royal Society saying: "Deeply appreciate good will shown by your generous gift. It can be well used."

An official announcement given out by the society reads:

In further explanation it should be said that the "Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge" was chartered in 1662 and is one of the oldest and most distinguished learned societies in the world; its membership being limited to scientists of great distinction. In its distinguished membership, its form of organization and its scientific activities the American Philosophical Society closely follows the Royal Society. Perhaps in the substitution of the word "useful" in the title of the American Philosophical Society for "natural" in the title of

the Royal Society we have a reflection of Franklin's practical nature, but in reality the Philosophical Society has always regarded all knowledge as useful.

Franklin himself was a member of the Royal Society as were many other members of the American Philosophical Society and the list of foreign members of the latter has always included a large number of the Fellows of the Royal Society.

This gift from the oldest learned Society of America to the oldest in Great Britain is inspired not only by filial regard, but also as evidence of the internationalism of science and scientists and their determination that the advancement of knowledge must not be stopped even by war.

TRAINING PHYSICIANS FOR GREAT BRITAIN¹

JUST before he died, Lord Lothian, British Ambassador to the United States, asked the Rockefeller Foundation whether it would consider the possibility of giving a number of British medical students the opportunity to complete their training in the medical schools of the United States and Canada. While medical students in England are not subject to draft, the air raids in London and elsewhere throughout Great Britain have imposed excessive demands upon all medical schools and teaching hospitals. Destruction has been extensive. In London, at this writing, only one teaching hospital has escaped bombing. The conditions for thorough and adequate teaching in medicine are therefore severely deranged. A considerable number of the teachers, moreover, have been called to military or special civilian duties, and, together with the profession as a whole, are exposed to injury and death in a measure that heightens the importance of adequate training for those who will be their successors. A break in the chain of medical teaching in any country spells disaster for the next generation.

Lord Lothian's suggestion was warmly supported by leading British medical authorities, and as a result the foundation appropriated \$100,000 to initiate the plan. This proposed cooperation between British and American medical schools is the fruit of earlier and very

¹ From the review for 1940 of Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, president of the Rockefeller Foundation.