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.
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> 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.
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> 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 BRITAIN[1]

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.

satisfactory relationships. For seventeen years the foundation has provided fellowship funds to the British Medical Research Council for the training of British postdoctoral medical students in America. These fellows have been of exceptional quality. Upon their return to the British Isles they have carried with them a favorable impression of the American experience. As a result, American medical education is held in esteem by many of the younger leaders in British medicine. This new project is launched, therefore, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidence.

Twenty-five leading medical schools in Canada and the United States have indicated their cordial willingness to accept these new students, and some have offered to remit tuition. An officer of the foundation is now in England working with a British committee on the details of selection and transportation. Candidates will be considered not only from the London area but from the provincial universities in England, Scotland and Wales, where extensive damage has also been done to clinical teaching services. Arrangements are being made for the local supervision of the students in America and for the acceptance by British medical authorities of their American training, when successfully completed, as the equivalent of the British licensure. Appointments will be for not more than three years and will provide modest living expenses and tuition. The three-year period is likely to include two years of clinical training and one year of internship. The student will be expected to provide his own cost of travel. He will, of course, be required to return to Great Britain upon the termination of his scholarship. The scholarship will be administered by the authorities of the school to which he is assigned, and it is not expected that he will be enrolled as a candidate for an American degree.

Unless unforeseen difficulties occur, it is anticipated that some of the students will arrive in America this spring, and the balance by the opening of the fall term. The foundation intends to consider a possible extension of the plan if the first year's experience is successful.

RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY

AN important forward step in the cooperation between industry and educational institutions will be taken with the construction of a research laboratory by the Standard Oil Company of Ohio. The new laboratory will be built on land purchased from Western Reserve University and coordinated with the university. It will be a two-story brick structure of modern design, with approximately 14,000 square feet of floor space, exclusive of its utility building; it will occupy a frontage of 200 feet on Cornell Road adjoining the Belt Line tracks.

The building, which will be completely fireproof and which will incorporate many safety features, will house the research activities of the Standard Oil Company, which for the past twelve years have been conducted in coordination with Western Reserve University.

The research program began in 1928 under the direction of Dr. Robert E. Burk, who is still in charge. He graduated from Cornell University in 1922, received his M.A. degree from Harvard in 1923, and his Ph.D. degree at the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes scholar.

The research laboratories, which now occupy quarters in the power building of the university, employ a staff of twenty-one people. In addition to the actual laboratories, a specialized library will be incorporated in the building, supplementing the extensive libraries which have been built up by the university over a period of more than a century.

"The interest of the Standard Oil Company in maintaining a research laboratory," according to G. W. Hanneken, vice-president in charge of refineries, "is accounted for by the fact that the applications of science, particularly of chemistry, have grown enormously in the petroleum industry in the last ten and particularly the last five years. Gasoline is now 'tailor-made' through the cooperation of the synthetic chemist with the engineer. The university, with its facilities for systematic and continued instruction of the research staff, provides the means for keeping the staff informed in newly developed scientific fields—an essential factor in an undertaking of this type."

Ground will be broken for the new laboratory in the near future.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF HEALTH

SEVENTY outstanding authorities in medicine and public health have accepted the invitation of the American Museum of Health to serve on its newly created Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Haven Emerson, formerly health commissioner of New York City, has been named chairman.

The formation of this advisory group will "assure the continuing scientific integrity of the exhibits presented in the museum," it was stated by Dr. Louis I. Dublin, chairman of the Board of Directors. The museum built and operated the exhibits in the Medicine and Public Health Building at the New York World's Fair, which were seen by 11,500,000 persons. It plans to open its permanent exhibition in Flushing Meadow Park early next summer after reconstruction of its new quarters in the former Masterpieces of Art Building on the old fair site has been completed.

In addition to Dr. Emerson the Scientific Advisory Board is comprised of the following members:

Dr. W. W. Bauer, Dr. Conrad Berens, Dr. Ernst P. Boas, Dr. Karl M. Bowman, Dr. Leverett D. Bristol, W.