To-day many of those who have worked with him hold leading positions in the realm of colloid science. We who have prepared this note are confident that these former students and colleagues would wish to join with us in mourning the passing of one of science's noblemen.

ROSS AIKEN GORTNER
KARL SOLLNER
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INSTITUTE OF GEO-BIOLOGY IN PEKING

DURING the summer of 1940, the laboratories, the library and the most important specimens of the Huangho-Paiho Museum, founded in 1915 and directed for twenty years by F. Licent, have been transferred to Peking, where the work will be continued under the name of "The Institute of Geo-Biology."

Officers of the institute at Peking are P. Teilhard de Chardin, geologist-paleontologist, honorary president, and P. Leroy, zoologist, director. Members of the staff are M. Trassaert, geologist, and J. Roi, botanist.

An official statement has been issued which reads:

In itself this change of location, decided for external circumstances, is purely material. But, more deeply, it means an internal transformation resulting from the natural growth of the institution.

The original idea of F. Licent, when be began pioneering in China, was to collect and study in Tientsin all possible data concerning the natural history of the Huangho basin. Following this trend of activity, we had come to the conviction that China was the place for an Institute devoted to the systematic development of what might be called the Science of "continental evolution." From both geological and biological points of view, Continents represent a kind of natural unit. Either in their building under tectonical and eruptive forces,—in the nature of their sediments,—in the formation and the shifting of their basins,—in the modelling of their topographical surfaces,—in the variations of their climates,—or in the development and the distribution of special vegetal and animal groups, they can only be studied "as a whole." And, if understood as a whole, they may introduce us to a renewed and better conception of the mysterious "concrescence" of Land and Life which is the Earth around us.

Hence the idea of an Institute of Geo-Biology where an associated Group of Geologists, Zoologists and Botanists would try, using the exceptionally distinct continental features of Asia, to draw, along as many directions as possible, a series of "blockdiagramms" expressing the joint evolution of rocks and organisms over China in the course of time. In a next-Memoir, for instance,[1] one of us (P. Leroy) will experiment with this method for the thick-shelled Unionids of Eastern Asia. Similar studies will follow, we hope, tracing, in the case of Mammals, the development of Asiatic Mole-rats (Myospalacinae), Duplicidentata, etc.

Being, as told above, the direct continuation of the Huangho-Paiho Museum, the Institute of Geo-Biology is not, strictly speaking, a new creation. Still less does it involve any shadow of competition with such sister-institutions as the Geological Survey of China, the Cenozoic Laboratory of Peking, the Fan Memorial Institute, the Heude Museum of Shanghai, the Natural History Society of China, etc. In fact, for the time being, the Institute will not print any publication of its own, but merely will distribute, as separates, its various contributions to the already existing scientific periodicals in China.

To cooperate, just as we did before, with the general effort of our friends, but with a more definite and more efficient line of investigation, such is the aim of the Peking's Institute of Geo-Biology.

The institute will be grateful for any exchange of publications, and "it is heartily ready to communicate any data, which might lead to a better understanding of the life of a continent."

[1] To be published in *Palaeont. Sinica.*

THE ELLEN H. RICHARDS INSTITUTE

THE trustees of the Pennsylvania State College have established the Ellen H. Richards Institute as a consolidated working research unit covering some of the investigations formerly carried on in the departments of chemistry and of home economics and in the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Studies in textile technology, which have been carried on at the college in the department of chemistry since 1919, will be included in the work of the new institute. These have been concentrated on investigations on the durability of textile articles in relationship to fabric construction and types of dyes, and on methods of laundering and dry cleaning. Research fellowships are maintained at the college by the Pennsylvania Association of Dyers and Cleaners, the Pennsylvania Laundryowners Association and the Pennsylvania Institutions of Welfare, Public Instruction, Health and Military Affairs.

Research studies in human nutrition, begun at the Pennsylvania State College in 1935, will also be continued in the Ellen H. Richards Institute. These include an investigation on the relationship of dietary intake to family nutritional status, and a similar study in child nutrition begun cooperatively with the Department of Health of the Commonwealth in 1936. Efforts to change nutritional status for the better by such means as parental or child education and the provision of a school lunch have been tried and the results measured.

Investigations of the suitability of many new materials for the construction of houses or parts of houses,