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,

and of the performance of various new types of household equipment have recently interested some of those working at the Pennsylvania State College, and a study of some of these physical aspects of housing is in immediate prospect.

The institute was named for the first woman to receive a degreee in chemistry from one of the great institutions of learning and research in the country, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a research chemist and teacher, Ellen H. Richards (1842–1911) devoted her professional life to the application of chemistry and of the scientific method to improving home living conditions, and to establishing household science as a field of study in the improvement of standards of living.

Dr. Pauline Beery Mack, director of research in home economics, who has been on the staff of the School of Chemistry and Physics at the Pennsylvania State College since 1919, will be the first director of the institute, which will be administered jointly through the School of Agriculture and the School of Chemistry and Physics.

EXCHANGE OF ASTRONOMICAL PAPERS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BART J. BOK, of Harvard Observatory, is chairman of a committee of the American Astronomical Society through which the exchange of astronomical papers is now proceeding regularly in the United States, England, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Poland. Other members of the committee are James Stokley, of Science Service, and Dr. Herbert R. Morgan, principal astronomer, U. S. Naval Observatory. Arrangements for the exchange were begun last September, and have been in effect since December. The Royal Astronomical Society accepted this month the invitation of the American committee to join in the exchange. Under the arrangement astronomers in England and continental Europe are sending scientific papers to Harvard University for mutual exchange.

At least once a month the American Committee, which has mailing headquarters at the Harvard Observatory, ships copies of *The Astrophysical Journal, Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Popular Astronomy* and *The Telescope,* together with abstracts and papers from various observatories, to astronomers in Leyden, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Florence and London. These astronomers attend to the circulation of the literature to investigators in their own countries. Many American observatories are participating in the plan by sending copies of their publications.

Dr. Bok stated that judging from the scientific papers received at the Harvard Observatory from England and Germany research in astronomy in these countries is at about one half its normal activity; in the occupied countries astronomers have resumed almost normal activity.

ARMY SERVICE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS AND INTERNS

A RESOLUTION has been adopted by the Committee on Public Health Relations of the New York Academy of Medicine urging that the drafting for Army service of qualified candidates for admission to medical schools, medical students and medical graduates serving as interns in approved hospitals, be deferred until their medical training is completed. The resolution was transmitted in a letter addressed by Dr. Malcolm Goodridge, president of the New York Academy of Medicine, to the President of the United States. The letter reads:

I hope that your appeal for a thousand volunteer physicians for Great Britain may meet with adequate and immediate response. When the press asked my opinion concerning your appeal, I did not hesitate to endorse it wholeheartedly.

The sad shortage of physicians in Great Britain emphasizes the need of wise procedure on our part to forestall a similar situation arising in this country in the future. It can be averted by preventing the drafting for military training of medical students in approved medical schools and interns in approved hospitals.

On behalf of The New York Academy of Medicine, I beg to submit to you a resolution bearing on this subject. This resolution is being sent to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy as well as to the Surgeons-General of our Armed Forces and to General Hershey.

I realize that this is a detail in comparison with the many important issues now before you, but a detail of such importance that I do not feel hesitant to bring it to your attention.

The text of the resolution follows:

An adequate supply of well-trained physicians is essential for National Defense as well as for the safety of the civil population. To-day there is greater need than ever before for the maintenance of full student quotas in all our medical schools and for the selection of the best qualified candidates for admission to the medical schools. It is likewise essential for the best interests of the country that medical graduates be allowed to complete their basic training as interns in approved hospitals, as without this training they are not qualified to assume the responsibilities of medical practice either in war or peace. The Selective Service authorities must be aware of the serious shortage of trained physicians in some of the belligerent foreign countries because of short-sighted interference with the period of medical training. A similar attitude in this country might have the gravest consequences in the future both for our military forces and our civil establishments.

The New York Academy of Medicine, therefore, urges the Selective Service Administration to give proper con-