

tant phytosterols, many of which are but poorly characterized.

In addition to his contributions to the steroid field, Dr. Fernholz performed outstanding research on other natural products. Soon after joining the research staff of Merck and Company, in 1937, he reported the isolation of durohydroquinone from the thermal decomposition products of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, the most active principle of Vitamin E concentrates. This furnished the essential clue to the structure of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, and in 1938 enabled Dr. Fernholz, almost entirely on the basis of his own experiments, to announce the complete structure of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol. Subsequent work from other laboratories has completely confirmed this structure.

Early in 1938, Dr. Fernholz became head of the Division of Organic Chemistry of the newly founded Squibb Institute for Medical Research. While continuing his active interest in steroids, he also turned his attention to the Vitamin K problem, and with his colleagues contributed eight papers concerned with the chemistry of antihemorrhagic substances. He was the first to recognize that 2-methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone was biologically more active than the natural Vitamin K<sub>1</sub>, a phenomenon unique among physiologically active natural substances.

Dr. Fernholz possessed the ability to visualize a research problem in its correct perspective, and therefore was able to reduce essential laboratory work to a minimum. It is not mere rhetoric to say that science has suffered a severe loss in his untimely death. More than that, all those who have had the privilege of being associated with him as colleagues or of being counted among his friends are acutely aware of a great personal loss.

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### RECENT DEATHS

DR. ROBERT THOMAS HILL, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey from 1889 to 1904, died on July 28 in his eighty-third year.

DR. JOHN FRANCIS WOODHULL, professor emeritus of physical science at Teachers College, Columbia University, from 1888 to 1922, died on July 27 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. JOHN PRICE CROZER GRIFFITH, emeritus professor of pediatrics in the Graduate School of Medi-

cine of the University of Pennsylvania, died on July 28. He was eighty-five years old.

DR. MAX AARON GOLDSTEIN, the otolaryngologist, founder and director of the Central Institute for the Deaf at St. Louis, died on July 27 at the age of seventy-one years.

BENJAMIN LEE WHORF, assistant secretary of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, research fellow of the Committee on American Native Languages of the American Council of Learned Societies, known for his work on Aztec and Mayan civilizations, died on July 26. He was forty-four years old.

DR. EDITH FORD SOLLERS, assistant professor of chemistry at Connecticut College, died in Baltimore on July 27 from injuries sustained in a laboratory accident while she carried on voluntary research in connection with the National Defense program.

PROFESSOR MYRON HARMON SWENK, chairman of the department of entomology of the University of Nebraska, died on July 17 in his fifty-eighth year. He became a member of the department of entomology in 1907 and was appointed chairman of the department in 1922, a position which he retained until the time of his death. According to a correspondent, "throughout the course of his professional career he has been actively engaged in both teaching and research and has contributed a large number of publications on various phases of entomology, particularly in the fields of economic entomology and taxonomy. In addition, he has published numerous articles in the fields of ornithology and mammalogy. In the death of Professor Swenk the University of Nebraska has lost one of its outstanding men."

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "The recent death of James Henry Blake, zoologist and artist, at the age of 96, removes almost the last of Louis Agassiz's students and coworkers. Mr. Blake was a student at the Penikese Laboratory and a member of the Hassler Expedition in 1871-72. He was also one of the artists for the famous Vineyard Sound Survey of the U. S. Fish Commission. At the time of his death, he was the senior member of the Boston Society of Natural History (elected 1870), in which he had held various offices. In addition, he was a founder and former president of the Boston Malacological Club. His lifelong interest in whales and mollusks is fittingly perpetuated by a large collection of his colored drawings in the New England Museum of Natural History."

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

DAMAGE caused to the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has been recorded in SCIENCE. Further par-

ticulars are given by the London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, who writes: