having given long-to-be-remembered lay sermons or lectures, and was a founder of the town's Get-together Club. He was a most able bowler and a proficient golfer in his day, and was keenly interested in basketball, baseball and, in fact, all outdoor sports. One is amazed to learn that he had time for all these things in addition to his many researches which have given Westfield and its State Teachers College an enviable reputation as a scientific center.

Nine different countries have published one or more of his scientific writings, which comprise not less than 85 titles. Besides copepods, his publications include the results of original researches on the embryology of amphibia, sipunculid and nemertean worms; life histories and economic importance of dragon-flies, damsel-flies, aquatic hemiptera and coleoptera, and freshwater mussels; as well as the results of various biological surveys made chiefly by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries (now Fish and Wildlife Service) and several school texts and outlines.

Never hurried, he accomplished a prodigious amount of work, and all of it showed evidence of most meticulous care. His manuscripts required as little editorial attention as any ever to be submitted to the National Museum for publication. In this connection, Dr. S. F. Hildebrand recalls an incident at the time when Dr. Robert C. Coker was director of the U. S. Fisheries Station at Fairport, Iowa. On receipt of a manuscript from Dr. Wilson, Dr. Coker called the staff together, in order to show them the manuscript as an example of how a report should be written and how a manuscript should be prepared for publication, so well and beautifully was it done.

Dr. Wilson was one of the most valued scientific collaborators on the rolls of the National Museum. He bequeathed to the museum his library of copepod literature, which is perhaps the most complete of its kind in the world, together with his correspondingly complete card catalogue of copepod names in literature and references to the species dealt with by each author represented in his library.

WALDO L. SCHMITT

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CHEMICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITY

A DECREASE of twelve per cent. in the world's recorded chemical research activity for the first half of 1941 as compared with the first half of 1940 is reported by Professor E. J. Crane, of the Ohio State University, editor of *Chemical Abstracts,* to the American Chemical Society.

The United States produces even in peacetime more than a quarter of the world's output of scientific and technical papers announcing new chemical information. It has as yet shown no noticeable decrease in the publication of the results of research for peacetime purposes.

Although the effects of the present warfare between Germany and the Soviet Republic are not reflected in the figures, the U.S.S.R., like the United States, up to the present has more than held its own. The British and German scientific and technical periodicals, in which a good many chemical papers of the peaceful-purpose type are still being published, average about half their regular size with rather wide variation among individual journals.

Abstracts gathered by systematic examination of more than 3,500 scientific, technical or trade journals published in thirty-one languages and obtained from all corners of the earth, and of the patent literature, number approximately 65,000 in a normal year. The twelve per cent. decrease in the past year may be compared with a drop of ten per cent. in abstracts of papers published in 1940 from the number for 1939. Professor Crane points out:

The reporting of research activity naturally lags behind performance so that war effects will no doubt become increasingly evident. Even so, a decrease of not more than one fifth in peaceful chemical research activity the world over can be safely predicted for war-torn 1941 from the output of the virtually peaceful year 1939. Is that not somewhat surprising?

There has probably not been a great deal of falling off in chemical research considered on the basis of total accomplishment the world over. In such conquered spots as France and Poland there is little or no opportunity or incentive for research. On the other hand, research activity conducted for national purposes and not reflected by publication is obviously in high gear in the countries still at war and in those preparing for the possibility of warfare.

Wide-awake nations recognize the value of their scientific men and they are not putting them in the field. Even so, so-called "all-out" warfare and preparedness, with so many important nations involved, has come very far from killing off chemical research for peaceful purposes. American scientific periodicals remain "fat." Paper shortage is no doubt a factor in the reduction of European journals.

ALASKAN EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

DR. HARRY L. SHAPIRO, associate curator of physical anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, has returned after working during the summer at Point Hope, Alaska.

Further light has been thrown on the discoveries made in 1939 and 1940 by an American Museum-University of Alaska expedition under the direction of Dr. Froelich G. Rainey, which found remains of a prehistoric town on the ancient migration route from Asia to America. Differences in the color of the vegetation disclosed five long avenues of some 600 buried dwellings that probably housed 3,000 people on the barren gravel spit of Point Hope, 130 miles above the Arctic Circle. Subsequent excavations in the graves that led out from the town site uncovered remains and implements very different from those of the prehistoric and present-day Eskimo tribes of that region. This ancient culture has been labeled "Ipiutak" from the Eskimo name of a small spit of land near the site.

In log-walled tombs, constructed in rectangular shape, well-preserved skeletons were found with their implements. Skulls were equipped with large ivory eyeballs, inlaid with jet pupils, and fantastic ivory carvings evidently used for decoration. The graves also contained many arrowheads, fine flint tools, needles and other artifacts of daily living. The carvings and implements made by these people were sufficiently different from the known Eskimo cultures to encourage further search to trace its origin.

Dr. Shapiro collected skeletal remains of the Ipiutaks as well as of the more recent Eskimo tribes and studied the living populations of Point Hope and the interior in order to determine the relationship of the ancient Ipiutak people to their successors. Another site excavated was at Tigara, a village very near the ancient Ipiutak town, now inhabited by modern Eskimos who live by hunting whales, seals and other sea mammals. Excavations at Tigara showed that it had been occupied since the abandonment of the Ipiutak site, roughly about 2,000 years ago. The Ipiutak culture is especially distinguished by a unique ivory art, an abundance of finely chipped flat tools and by an emphasis on land hunting gear. Many implements widely distributed among all previously known Eskimo people are absent. Moreover, in certain respects the Ipiutak culture, although the oldest in the area, is more complex and developed.

Dr. Shapiro made one of the largest collections of skeletal remains from any site in the New World, comprising 500 skeletons and covering more than 2,000 years of occupation in the Point Hope region. The results of months of laboratory work in measuring and comparing the remains from all these sites will determine the relationship of the Ipiutaks in the history of human migration from Asia to the North American continent.

Five hundred tombs were excavated by the expedition in an area covering an extent of six miles leading out from the Ipiutak town. The great number of artifacts recently found will be added to the collection made last year. One of the most interesting discoveries is a carved ivory mask made in several sections, with the inset ivory eyes which are peculiar to the Ipiutak burials. The mask was found in a tomb enclosing the remains of a man, a woman and a child. The body of the child was resting on the knees of the man and the huge ivory mask covered the body of the child. The significance of this and other Ipiutak burials is unknown.

THE ENGINEERS' DEFENSE BOARD

IN view of the existing national emergency, six national engineering societies have joined to organize the Engineers' Defense Board in order to provide a central agency that will be prepared to assist the various branches of the government with engineering knowledge and experience on questions connected with military preparedness. Among the functions of this organization will be:

To serve as a channel to inform engineers generally regarding defense problems, especially those involving shortages of materials.

To implement and make applicable reports and recommendations of the advisory committees of the National Academy of Sciences.

To urge engineers (a) to adopt procedures looking toward accomplishment of the objective of defense agencies; (b) to promote means of increasing production of raw materials in which shortages exist; (c) to conserve the supply of industrial materials; (d) to find substitutes, and (e) to simplify operations and production.

To act as a clearing house between engineers or engineering groups of information regarding substitute materials, waste prevention and conservation.

To appoint, on request of the Army, Navy or other defense agency, special committees of engineers to deal with specific engineering problems related to defense.

To select problems or projects dealing with defense and to study them with due regard to activities of existing agencies.

For the purpose of organization, the Engineers' Defense Board will consist initially of five representatives from each of the following six national engineering societies (American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Society of Automotive Engineers and American Institute of Chemical Engineers) such representatives to be appointed by the governing bodies of such societies. To these may be added one or more representatives of such other national engineering societies as may be invited to participate by the Executive Committee of the Engineers' Defense Board, such representatives to be designated by the governing body of their re-