sponsibilities and duties that came naturally with the directorship of a large observatory. But whereas heavy directorial duties weigh down many a good man they seemed in the case of Plaskett to stir him to greater and more intense activity. He frankly enjoyed the job and the freedom that it gave him. I shall always remember his saying, "As a director it is your privilege to ask advice from many people, consider all suggestions carefully and then do as you please."

It is impossible to appreciate J. S. Plaskett without considering his happy family relations. Mrs. Plaskett and his son Harry played a very important part in his life. Plaskett was a strong man who could on occasion be sharp and blunt, and he needed the sweetness and kindness of Mrs. Plaskett. I doubt whether any astronomer of the present generation will ever think of him without picturing his wife somewhere in the background, not very far away. The success of Harry H. Plaskett, who after some years at Victoria went to Harvard and from there as Savilian professor of astronomy to Oxford, meant a great deal to his father. Harry Plaskett was in no small measure the cause of his father's expanding his field of research from eclipsing binaries and routine radial velocities to include spectral studies and general research on stellar motions. In knowing the elder Plaskett we can not overlook the contributions made by his wife and son.

Plaskett's name will go down in astronomical history as that of a leading designer of astronomical instruments, an untiring contributor of basic observations and a keen analyst through whose work our knowledge of the galactic system and its component stars was greatly advanced. Above all, however, we shall remember Plaskett as the man who placed Canada among the leading nations in astronomical research. We expect of the Canadian astronomers, present and future, that they carry on in the tradition established by Plaskett.

BART J. BOK

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

SIR ARTHUR WILLIAM HILL, since 1922 director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, was killed on November 3 when thrown from his horse while riding. He was sixty-six years old.

DR. JOHN ERIC WELIN, emeritus professor of chemistry and physics at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kans., died on October 23. Dr. Welin was a native of Stockholm, Sweden. He was graduated from Augustana College and the University of Kansas. He served as a teacher at Bethany College beginning in the year 1891, and was elected emeritus professor in 1937.

A PLAQUE in memory of Dr. William North Rice, since 1918 professor emeritus of geology and natural history at Wesleyan University, three times acting president of the institution, was unveiled in Memorial Chapel on November 8. Dr. Rice died in 1928 at the age of eighty-four years.

AT noon on October 26, two-score friends of Dr. Robert Thomas Hill met at the foot of Round Mountain, seven miles west of Comanche, Texas, and after appropriate ceremonies, climbed the slope and scattered his ashes on the summit. It was on Round Mountain where in the eighteen seventies the orphaned printer boy, Robert Hill, first found fossil shells. His curiosity was aroused and from this place as a starting point he worked out the Comanche series now recognized wherever geology is taught. Dr. Hill died at Dallas, Texas, on July 28, 1941, aged eighty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE Rockefeller Foundation and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation each contributed last January the sum of $500,000 to be used in the establishment of a School of Public Health at the University of Michigan. As already announced in SCIENCE, Dr. Henry F. Vaughan has been appointed dean of the school. Dr. Vaughan is a son of the late Victor C. Vaughan, who was from 1891 until his death in 1929 dean of the Medical School of the university.

According to an account of the plans of the new school in *The Michigan Alumnus,* until this year, the M.P.H. degree has been granted for thirty hours of academic work. Forty-eight hours are required for the degree now, with one year, at least, spent in the university and not less than twelve of the forty-eight hours given to field work. The practical experience is to be gained under the approval and direction of the School of Public Health, with at least six months to be devoted to it.

The program is set up so that after one year of study at Michigan the student enters the field of public health as a worker, either specializing in some branch with which he wishes to become particularly familiar or dividing his experience among several types of public health work for the purpose of gaining a general background. Not until after this practical experience is completed does the School of Public Health grant the degree.

Experience will be offered in areas outside the boundaries of the state, as well, in the South, East and West, the arrangement in the more distant areas to provide direction by expert workers in local public health units.

The advanced degree of doctor of public health will be granted to those who make contributions in special fields.

Drs. Thomas Francis, Jr., and Lowell T. Coggeshall, of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, will be professor and chairman of the department of epidemiology and professor of epidemiology, respectively. Dr. John Sundwall, formerly professor and director of the Division of Hygiene and Public Health, has been named professor of hygiene and public health. Other transfers into the new unit include:

Nathan Sinai, professor of public health.
Dr. Emory W. Sink, assistant professor of public health.
Kenneth A. Easlick, assistant professor of public health dentistry.
Marguerite F. Hall, assistant professor of biometrics.
Lloyd R. Gates, instructor in public health engineering.
Dr. Lavinia G. MacKaye, instructor in child health.
Dr. David A. VanderSlice, instructor in school health.

THE ENGINEERS' COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOUR hundred and sixty-one engineering curricula at one hundred and twenty-nine colleges and universities in the continental United States have now been accredited by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development, through the inspection program of its committee on engineering schools. Provisional accrediting has been given one hundred and four additional curricula. These figures were announced on October 30 at the ninth annual meeting of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

Committee reports on major activities of the council were made at the meeting, at which also officers were elected for 1941–42. R. E. Doherty, president of Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa., was elected chairman for a second term; H. T. Woolson, executive engineer, Chrysler Corporation, was re-elected vice-chairman. H. H. Henline, national secretary of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, was elected secretary of the council and A. B. Parsons, secretary of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, New York, N. Y., assistant secretary.

Newly elected committee chairmen are: D. B. Prentice, president, Rose Polytechnic Institute, committee on engineering schools; E. S. Lee, engineer, general engineering laboratory, General Electric Company, committee on professional training; G. Ross Henninger, editor, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, committee on information. The following committee chairmen were re-elected for the coming year; R. L. Sackett, dean emeritus of engineering, Pennsylvania State College, committee on student selection and guidance; C. F. Scott, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, Yale University, committee on professional recognition; D. C. Jackson, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, committee on engineering ethics.

Nearly all the institutions in the United States which grant degrees in engineering have voluntarily submitted curricula for inspection by the committee on engineering schools since the beginning of the accrediting program in 1933. In 143 of 166 such institutions, 896 curricula have been inspected, including reinspection, since 1939, of 157 curricula. One or more curricula have been accredited in 129 schools. Accredited curricula number 461; provisionally accredited 104; action was deferred on 6; and accrediting has been refused to 167. Reinspections resulted in change of status for only 26 curricula. With the inspection program virtually complete, the committee is now engaged chiefly with reinspections of those curricula provisionally accredited.

THE EIGHTEENTH EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

THE eighteenth Exposition of Chemical Industries will be held at the Grand Central Palace, New York, from December 1 to 6. Dr. M. C. Whitaker, of the American Cyanamid Company, is chairman of the advisory committee. Among other members of the committee are: Dr. Raymond F. Bacon; Dr. L. H. Baekeland; Dr. W. S. Landis, president of the Chemists' Club; Dr. Raymond R. Ridgway, president of the Electrochemical Society, and Dr. E. R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute.

The exhibits will demonstrate the rapid advance of chemical technology, raw materials, machinery and products in the following categories: chemical products, processing materials, manufacturing ingredients, manufacturing equipment, machinery and supplies, process control, technology, containers and plant construction.

According to the official announcement, significant facts which many of the exhibits will reflect bear out the following points:

Partly chemical industries are becoming more chemical. Nonchemical industries are consuming more chemical products and adopting chemical methods. Artificial materials are rapidly replacing natural products.

Synthetics, so much in the foreground just now, are no longer regarded merely as substitutes, but as new competitive materials. Many of them are created for specific purposes and serve those purposes better than the conventional materials they replace.

From laboratories and pilot plants not merely new