

active interest in research, having published a number of papers on the iron cycle in nature dealing with the effect of humic acids on the naturally occurring oxides of iron. He was also interested in studies dealing with salt craving in animals and in arsenic tolerance. Historical studies in the field of chemistry were of most immediate interest to him as evidenced by the publication of a historical paper on "Sulfur from Popocatepetl," and an unfinished manuscript on the history of chemistry. He was a member of the chemical professional society of Alpha Chi Sigma and of Sigma Xi. At the time of his death, he was serving as the coach of the college golf team.

Dr. Harrar is survived by his wife and two sons by a former marriage. In his death science has lost a man of rare ability and a charming personality.

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. WALTHER NERNST, formerly professor of physical chemistry and director of the Physico-Chemical Institute of the University of Berlin, Nobel laureate in 1920, died on November 18 at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. KURT KOFFKA, William Allan Neilson professor of experimental psychology at Smith College, previously from 1911 to 1918 professor of psychology at the University of Giessen, died on November 21. He was fifty-five years old.

MAJOR EDWIN CLARENCE ECKEL, since 1933 chief geologist of the Tennessee Valley Authority, died on November 22 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. MAX KRISS, associate professor of animal nutrition at the Pennsylvania State College, with which he had been associated since 1918, died on November 16 at the age of fifty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE THAILAND DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

THE ninth biennial report of the Thailand Department of Science, which is summarized in the *Journal* of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of the Commonwealth of Australia, describes a great increase in the activities of the department. One form of expansion is the addition of a Division of Pharmacy to the Divisions of Chemistry, Agricultural Science and Industrial Chemistry, already in existence. The new division will undertake research into indigenous drugs and the manufacture of certain galenical preparations, and it will examine and standardize drugs and biological preparations imported into, or manufactured in, Thailand. The division is housed in a modern two-storied building containing offices, balance rooms and six laboratories.

The Division of Industrial Chemistry, formerly known as the Division of Technology, was exclusively devoted to the manufacture of Vitamin B₁ extract and drugs for the treatment of leprosy; the Vitamin B₁ extract is obtained from rice bran, and 1,600 litres of it were prepared during the two years under review. A Ceramics Section has now been incorporated in this division, and the workshop attached to the division has been considerably enlarged so that it is able to construct much of the apparatus previously imported or manufactured outside the department. The Division of Agricultural Science is largely engaged on soil surveys and analyses, but it also analyzed various foods and animal fodders, and investigated the fertilizing values of bat and swallow guano. The Division of Chemistry carries out large numbers

of routine assays of opium dross submitted by the Excise and Opium Department, and of bronze for coinage, submitted by the Treasury Department. It also has a Water Analysis Section which is growing in magnitude each year as water works are being started in most of the important towns of the kingdom.

The production of solar salt and the production and utilization of soya beans are two important problems that have been investigated by committees set up by the Department of Science. Analyses of Thai soya beans show that their nutritional value is comparable to the Manchurian species.

During 1936-38, six officers of the department were sent abroad to gain experience, principally in the fields of pharmaceutical chemistry, spectrography, ceramics and petroleum refining.

GRANTS MADE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

FOURTEEN grants were made to the University of Illinois during April and May, ranging from \$300 to \$6,250, and amounting in all to \$21,170. They are as follows:

John and Mary R. Markle Foundation, New York City, \$6,250 to support Dr. Ernst Gellhorn's investigation of the physiological foundations of convulsions and of the treatment of dementia praecox, in the College of Medicine.

Nutrition Research Laboratories, Chicago, \$3,900 to continue the research program being carried on in the department of physiology in the College of Medicine under the supervision of Dr. C. I. Reed.