

fessor in chemistry at Bryn Mawr College, where he remained for six years.

The need for his counsel at Stamford in his father's business became so pressing that he then decided to change his base to Stamford, although continuing his scientific interests. He took an increasing responsibility in the Getman and Judd Company, of which he became vice-president, but at the same time he built and equipped the Hillside Laboratory, of which he was the director.

Dr. Getman's researches were begun with Dr. Harry C. Jones on the subject of "Hydration in Solution." They achieved notable results from their study of the freezing points of solutions. At Bryn Mawr Dr. Getman continued his work on solutions, making a study of the viscosity of various solutions. At Stamford he installed refractometric and spectroscopic equipment for the study of solutions. Later work was devoted to electrode potentials and chemical activity. The titles of his various papers taken from *Chemical Abstracts* are much too numerous to give in detail.

Dr. Getman was author of several books, of which two will be referred to here. His "Outlines of Physical Chemistry," of late years in cooperation with Dr. Daniels, has gone through many editions and has been a standard text-book in American colleges for nearly a generation, excelling in clarity, conciseness and scholarship. His "Life of Remsen" was published by the *Journal of Chemical Education* as a pioneering effort in the publication of the lives of American chemists. Dr. Getman was engaged at the time of his

death in securing the material for the publication of the lives of other American chemists. It is hoped that this work may be continued in other hands.

The broad interests of Dr. Getman are indicated by the fact that he was director of the Stamford Hospital, the Stamford Trust Company, the Ferguson Library and president of the Stamford Symphony Society. On trips in the West he transcribed some of the songs of the American Indians which he worked over into themes suitable for performance by orchestras. He was also active in the Presbyterian Church of Stamford. On November 26, 1906, he married Miss Ellen M. Holbrook, of Plymouth, Mass., who survives him.

EUGENE C. BINGHAM

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ALEXANDER LOWY, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, died on December 25 at the age of fifty-two years.

DR. LEON PRATT ALFORD, professor of administrative engineering at New York University, chairman of the department of industrial engineering, died on January 2 at the age of sixty-five years.

JOHN W. KIDD, dean of the School of Engineering of the Texas College of Mines at El Paso, died on December 29. He was sixty years old.

J. H. RILEY, associate curator in the Division of Birds of the U. S. National Museum, died on December 17. Mr. Riley had been associated with the division since 1896.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN¹

THE extended field of activity and additional financial resources which have recently been granted by the government to the Agricultural Research Council have opened the door to new developments in this branch of applied science. A large part of the council's activities will still be devoted to coordinating, and advising on, the work of the various research institutes to which the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Agriculture for Scotland are making maintenance grants, and to furthering the interests of these institutes in every possible way; but it is the council's intention to devote some part of the funds to be expended at its own discretion, for which it is answerable to the Lord President of the Council, to the furtherance of agricultural research in university departments and to the enlargement of its own scientific staff. It is, in

¹ *Nature*.

particular, the council's desire to encourage both senior and junior research workers in the biological sciences to enter the agricultural field. In pursuance of this policy, the council has established two new research units under its direct control, a Unit of Animal Physiology and a Unit of Soil Enzyme Chemistry.

The Unit of Animal Physiology will be under the direction of Sir Joseph Barcroft, with the assistance of Mr. A. T. Phillipson and Dr. R. A. McAnally. This unit will, by agreement with Professor E. D. Adrian, be housed in the Department of Physiology at Cambridge, and will work in close liaison with the Institute of Animal Pathology and the Institute of Animal Nutrition. In the first instance, the staff of this unit will devote a large part of their time to the study of ruminant digestion. The Unit of Soil Enzyme Chemistry will be under the direction of Dr. J. H. Quastel, assisted by Dr. P. J. G. Mann and D. M. Webley. By agreement with Sir John Russell,