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 BRITAIN[1]

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 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,

[1] *Nature.*

this unit will be housed in the Rothamsted Experimental Station. Dr. Quastel and his staff will, in the first instance, be engaged mainly in the study of the influence on soil fertility of enzyme systems derived from soil bacteria, or from other microorganisms.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC TRENDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IN a survey of "Science in Industry" in 1941, Dr. Maurice Holland announces that recently the Industrial Research Institute (affiliated with the National Research Council) representing more than forty companies in varied fields of industry, known as leaders in technology in their fields, have appointed a committee on "Economic, Political, and Social Trends Affecting Research Policies" to study the deep and significant national trends in these three categories as they are now affecting and may affect in the future research personnel, organization and appropriations.

The primary purpose of the committee is to devise ways and means to preserve research organizations intact after the war. It is looking toward the formulation of a plan which can be sponsored and backed by the only organized industrial company membership group in the United States for some form or method of accumulating a surplus or sinking fund for research in lean times, or some form of economic security such as irrevocable trust funds for research workers, or some form of group insurance especially designed to fit the needs of creative workers in industry.

The report points out that "with the appointment of Dr. Vannevar Bush as director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the entire science resources of the nation, including those of the armed services, are now under the direction of one man. For the first time in the nation's scientific history the resources of government, industry and university are integrated and coordinated for the primary purpose of national defense.

"Substitution of industrial materials come second on the list as a significant trend in the defense-dominated scene—with companies crossing industry boundaries. The search for substitute material in the case of at least one large automobile manufacturer has definitely indicated that the substitute material is functionally better adapted to the purpose, is cheaper and more decorative, with the result that they will probably not go back to the original material.

"The publication of 'Industrial Research. II. A National Resource' by the National Resources Board —a survey made by the National Research Council for that body—has had a marked effect in high places in industry and industrial-financial groups in stimulating interest in technical research as one form of 'industrial insurance.' This is particularly true in the management and executive strata of industry and financial organizations."

THE COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE TEACHING

UNDER the sponsorship of five scientific societies representing biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and research in science teaching a committee has been formed to work on educational problems of vital interest to all science teachers which no single organization can solve working alone. The committee is known as the Cooperative Committee on Science Teaching.

Two meetings have been held, one in April and one in November, 1941. Work is now in progress on four problems:

1. Licensing or certification of secondary-school science teachers. The committee hopes to work out a solution that will be practicable and that will be adopted by certification authorities.

2. The college training of prospective science teachers. It is desirable to prepare teachers for teaching certain combinations of subjects rather than to prepare intensively in one subject.

3. Exploratory studies of the secondary-school science curriculum. The committee hopes to stimulate a number of colleges and universities to organize workshops and conferences for bringing together secondary-school teachers to work on their educational problems.

4. Problems of state or local agencies needing the services of educational consultants on questions pertaining to science teaching. The committee offers its services as a consultant to state or local agencies working on problems pertaining to science teaching.

The committee consists of the following members:

Representing the American Association of Physics Teachers: K. Lark-Horovitz, Purdue University; Glen W. Warner, Wilson Junior College, Chicago.

Representing the American Chemical Society: B. S. Hopkins, University of Illinois; Martin V. McGill, Lorain High School, Lorain, Ohio.

Representing the Mathematical Association of America: A. A. Bennett, Brown University; Raleigh Schorling, University of Michigan.

Representing the National Association for Research in Science Teaching: G. P. Cahoon, the Ohio State University; Robert J. Havighurst, University of Chicago.

Representing the Union of Biological Societies: Oscar Riddle, Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution.

Robert J. Havighurst is chairman of the committee and Glen W. Warner is secretary.

THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY

DR. DOUGLAS HOUGHTON CAMPBELL, of Stanford University, has recently (December, 1941) been elected to honorary membership in the American Fern