This invention and subsequent work on the subject of wood waste brought him wide recognition as an authority on wood distillation and waste wood utilization and, up to the time of his illness, he carried on an extensive correspondence concerning the problems involved in this interesting field.

He was active as a member of scientific organizations. He rarely missed meetings of the local chapter of the American Chemical Society. He served as president of the Oregon section and as its representative as councilor of the national society. He was president of the Oregon chapter of the Sigma Xi and was prominent in the councils of the local chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. He was a member of the program committee of the Pacific Coast Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At the time of his death he was one of the inspectors for the committee of the American Chemical Society for accrediting institutions for the training of chemists. He was also the chemistry representative on the basic science examining committee for licensing physicians in the State of Oregon. Locally he was president of the Eugene Rotary Club, a member of the Round Table Club, a member of the Eugene School Board and one-time president of the Boy Scout Council.

Though he was not formally trained as an engineer he possessed the instincts of one and was always interested in chemical engineering problems. The practical more than the purely theoretical implications of chemical discovery always intrigued him. However, in spite of his scientific, academic and community activities his primary concern was always the interest of his students. He was a patient, thorough and painstaking teacher. He would lay aside any task to answer the appeal for help from any struggling student. In return he was accorded not only the respect of his students but their lifelong friendship as well. Professor Stafford's contributions to the literature of chemistry, while not particularly voluminous, were valuable and substantial and reflect the breadth of his interests, ranging as they did from the mineral resources of Oregon and the composition of the saline lake deposits to the molecular weight of sulfur and solubilities in acetamide.

He held memberships in the following societies: American Association of University Professors, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Chemical Society, and he was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

His hobby was flowers and shrubs. He spent early morning and evening hours in his garden. After the onset of his last illness he officially retired from active duties and was looking forward to recovery and freedom to more fully enjoy his outdoor activities.

Professor Stafford leaves his wife, Mary Elizabeth Stafford, daughter of the late Dean John Straub; his two sons, both of whom are married and reside in Eugene, Howard Straub Stafford and John Edward Stafford; one daughter, Miriam Stafford Hamilton, of Wenonah, N. J., and one grandson, Robert Stafford Hamilton.

F. L. SHINN

EUGENE, OREGON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HEBER DOUST CURTIS, head of the department of astronomy at the University of Michigan and director of the observatory, died on January 8 at the age of sixty-nine years.

STEWART PATON, consultant in mental hygiene and lecturer in psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University, died on January 7 at the age of seventy-six years.

Nature records the death of Dr. H. Ettringham, president of the Royal Entomological Society in 1931–1932, on November 26, at the age of sixty-eight years; of Dr. Walcot Gibson, formerly director for Scotland of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, on November 28 at the age of seventy-seven years; and of Dr. F. Stang, from 1921 to 1927 rector of the University of Oslo and president of the Nobel Committee of the Storting, who was known for pioneer work in comparative research in human culture, at the age of seventy-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WAR WORK OF THE CANADIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

ACCORDING to the official report, scientific research in Canada since the war began has been directed almost wholly to the solution of new and urgent problems arising out of the war. Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, acting president of the National Research Council, points out that the council, the universities, members of the scientific and engineering professions and the technical staffs of industrial firms are pulling together towards the common goal, united as never before in the single purpose of winning the war.

In the National Research laboratories at Ottawa work has been expanded in several directions because of the war. In the chemistry and biology divisions especially the selection and testing of suitable materials for the use of the armed forces has been a major problem. Specifications for materials normally bought