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

in England have had to be revised to conform with Canadian practice. All kinds of supplies have had to be tested to determine whether they are acceptable according to required standards. Technical advice has been given as requested by the services in the specialized fields of science in which the council members are trained. Food storage and transport under war conditions presented many difficulties. Lack of refrigerated space and indeed lack of ocean shipping space made it necessary to devise new methods of handling perishable foodstuffs. The tremendous increase in volume of merchandise being shipped and the limited number of cargo vessels available require that the best possible use be made of every inch of space.

In physics, electrical and mechanical engineering, the design and development of new detecting devices to locate aircraft, submarines, mines and other enemy equipment have been carried forward with much success. Testing of engines, hulls, aircraft and hosts of other items of equipment used in mechanized warfare has been done on a large scale.

THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

DURING the eighteenth year of the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigations, sixty-seven applications for grants were received by the trustees, forty-nine of which came from seven different countries in Europe, Asia, North and South America. The total number of grants made during this year was thirty-five, one of these being a continued annual grant. In the eighteen years of its existence the foundation has made four hundred and twenty-nine grants which have been distributed to investigators throughout the world.

For the present, researches will be favored that are directed towards the solution of problems in medicine and surgery or in branches of science bearing on medicine and surgery. Grants may be used for the purchase of apparatus and supplies that are needed for special investigations, including technical assistance, but not for providing apparatus or materials which are ordinarily a part of laboratory equipment. Stipends for the support of investigators will be granted only under exceptional circumstances. The maximum size of grants will usually be less than $500.

Applications for grants to be held during the year 1942–1943 must be in the hands of the Executive Committee before April, 1942. There are no formal application blanks, but letters asking for aid must state definitely the qualifications of the investigator, an accurate description of the research, the size of the grant requested and the specific use of the money to be expended. In their requests for aid, applicants should state whether or not they have approached other foundations for financial assistance. It is highly desirable to include letters of recommendation from the directors of the departments in which the work is to be done. Only applications complying with the above conditions will be considered.

Applications should be sent to Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital, 695 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION, INC.

ACCORDING to an announcement recently made by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, fifteen leaders in the U. S. food industry are sponsoring a Nutrition Foundation to help to build American health and energy.

Dr. Compton has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the foundation—which will be operated on a non-profit basis to distribute freely all scientific discoveries in foods and diet. The Nutrition Foundation, Inc., has been incorporated at Albany under the membership corporations law of the State of New York. The fifteen prominent manufacturers, who have contributed an operating fund amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars for the establishment of the first cooperative scientific research laboratories created by the food manufacturing industry, are the American Can, Beechnut, California Packing, Campbell Soup, Continental Can, Corn Products, General Foods, H. J. Heinz, Libby McNeill and Libby, National Biscuit, Owens-Illinois Glass, Quaker Oats, Standard Brands, Swift and United Fruit.

The board of trustees will include officers of these companies, together with Americans prominent in government, business and national life, as well as representatives of other companies which later may join the foundation. Leaders in scientific and related fields will be invited to serve in various important capacities in the work. Dr. Compton stated that the Nutrition Foundation had been underwritten by a group of leading manufacturers in the food industry and allied fields as a needed public service. The purposes of the new organization are as follows:

(1) To develop and apply the science of nutrition in its fundamental conception and practical significance as a basic science of public health;

(2) To aid the food industry in appropriately solving its general and individual problems relating to that science; and

(3) To do so by lawful and effective means, as a public institution operated on a non-profit basis and dedicated to improve the food and diet and thus to better the health of the people of the United States of America.