Westminster College in 1918 and his M.A. degree from Colorado College in 1919. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1926, after having done part of his graduate study at the University of California and at Columbia University. In 1924 he married Grace Oberschelp, who died in 1927; and in 1939 he married Mrs. Frances Hady, who with her two children, and his mother, Mrs. Alexander McGeoch, survive him.

He came to Iowa as head of the department of psychology in the fall of 1939, and while here he has won high recognition for his scholarly activities in the pursuit and promotion of research, his excellence in teaching and administrative activities, his good judgment and winsome personality, and his trustworthy leadership in the department and in the university as a whole. His researches have centered around problems in the psychology of learning. He had just completed his magnum opus, a volume entitled "The Psychology of Human Learning," which is being published by Longmans, Green. He has served as editor of the *Psychological Bulletin* since 1935, and has published a number of papers, principally in the field of experimental psychology in education.

Professor McGeoch has been active in the American Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (secretary, Section I, 1934–1936), the Eastern Psychological Association, the Midwestern Psychological Association (secretary-treasurer, 1932–1934; president, 1935), the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, and the National Institute of Psychology (president, 1941). He was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa and Phi Sigma. He served as instructor of psychology at Washington University, 1920–1922; assistant professor, 1922–1926; and associate professor, 1926–1928; professor of psychology, University of Arkansas, 1928–1930; professor and chairman of the department of psychology, University of Missouri, 1930–1935; research professor, Wesleyan University, 1935–1939, which position he left to come to the University of Iowa.

CARL E. SEASHORE
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RECENT DEATHS

SIR WILLIAM BRAGG, Fullerian professor of chemistry and director of the Royal Institution, London; director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory; from 1935 to 1940 president of the Royal Society, died on March 13 in his eightieth year.

DR. ROBERT WILLIAM HEGNER, professor of protozoology and head of the department of medical zoology at the Johns Hopkins University, died on March 11 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. KARL MCKAY WIEGAND, professor emeritus of botany, formerly head of the department at the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, died on March 12 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. ROBERT WILSON SMITH, professor emeritus of biology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, died on February 22, in his eighty-second year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE[1]

THE report for 1940 of H.M. Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope illustrates how astronomical work in the belligerent countries is being affected even though they may be far removed from the present scene of hostilities. Half the observing staff at the Cape is now engaged on non-astronomical duties, this at a time when so many observatories in Europe have perforce suspended work. Nevertheless, the depleted staff is doing its best to secure such observations as can not be replaced by any made at a later date. Meridian observations of the moon have been started in view of the possible loss of European observations, and volunteers have come to the rescue in observing occultations. Photographic work has been somewhat precarious owing to delays in the delivery of plates, but few photographs have been lost, and the position has been eased by a modification of the program of routine solar observations which supplements that still being carried on at Greenwich. Work on the Reversible Transit Circle continues on a somewhat reduced scale, and the photometric observations are now sufficiently far advanced to make possible the construction of a framework of stars of magnitudes between 7 and 10 to which the magnitudes of the zone stars can be referred. With the 1940 batch of parallaxes the observatory now enters the very restricted list of stations at which the distances of more than a thousand stars have been determined trigonometrically.

The section of the report which will be read with perhaps the greatest interest concerns the total solar eclipse of October 1, 1940. The main part of the program was to measure the gravitational deflection of light in the sun's field—the Einstein effect. The Greenwich expedition which was to have cooperated in this work was cancelled at the outbreak of war, and the entire program was carried through, as planned, by the Cape staff. It is disappointing to

[1] From *Nature*.