

(formerly a member of the Harvard faculty), was the honorary chairman. Professor William E. Hocking spoke on "William James' World-View."

Professor Hocking also opened a series of symposium lectures at Harvard, "William James and the Psychology of the Present," on January 28. Twelve men are contributing to the series, in which five lectures have already been given, with seven to come, concluding on April 22. In September the American Psychological Association will celebrate the James anniversary at Harvard, with James R. Angell, formerly president of Yale, as chairman.

#### RECENT DEATHS

EDWARD C. SCHMIDT, who retired two years ago as professor of railway engineering at the University of Illinois, died on March 21. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. MARTHA TRACY, assistant director of the Public Health Department of Philadelphia, died on March 22, at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. GEORGE SHIRAS, 3D, of Marquette, Mich., known for his flashlight photographs of wild animals, died on March 24, at the age of eighty-three years. He had made biological expeditions to Newfoundland, Alaska, the West Indies, Mexico, Panama, Hawaii and the Rocky Mountains.

DR. I. SETH HIRSCH, since 1933 professor of radiology at the New York University College of Medicine and a practicing physician in New York City for forty years, died on March 24, at the age of sixty-one years.

THE death is announced of Professor Sir Robert Chapman, since 1939 president of the South Australian School of Mines.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### PHYSICIANS FOR THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES

It is reported in *The New York Times* that at a meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York at the New York Academy of Medicine, Colonel S. F. Seeley, of the Army Medical Corps and the executive officer for the Procurement and Assignment Service for Physicians, Dentists and Veterinarians, a branch of the Federal Security Agency headed by Paul V. McNutt, announced that a questionnaire will be sent to every physician, dentist and veterinarian in the United States during the first week in April by the Procurement and Assignment Service, Washington, "designed to give an opportunity to the 270,000 persons in these professions to state their preference, should they be called, whether in military, governmental, industrial or civil activity."

Colonel Seeley said:

For the first time in history there is now to be concentrated in one office the data on the availability of professional men to supply the needs of the Army, Navy, U. S. Public Health Service, U. S. Civil Service Commission, Veterans Administration, U. S. Children's Bureau, physicians and dentists and veterinarians and other government services.

No service will commission or employ a person unless cleared by this Procurement and Assignment Service. This immense mobilization must be accomplished without the least jeopardy to the communities from which the men are taken.

The Navy will need a total of 3,000 doctors when its enlistment of 500,000 is reached. For the Army, 16,000 new physicians must be supplied by December 1.

Nearly two years ago the American Medical Association sent out a questionnaire and elicited replies

from more than 159,000 physicians in the nation, of whom more than half were willing to volunteer for medical service in case of war. Of the 62,000 under the age of 45, 63 per cent. of the unmarried and 48 per cent. of those married even at that early date before war seemed probable, twenty-two months ago, were willing to offer their services.

Colonel Seeley stated further:

Many physicians are especially interested in aviation medicine. Information blanks may be procured from the Office of the Air Surgeon, Army Air Force, Washington, D. C. Last week my office received a request for 2,500 medical officers for service with the Air Corps by July 1, and to provide 600 per month for the balance of the year. Of the men selected, 80 per cent. must be under 36 years, 20 per cent. may be selected from the group between 36 and 45 if they are recognized specialists, particularly in traumatic surgery, ophthalmology or neuropsychiatry.

No man will be assigned to duty if he is essentially needed on the staff of a teaching institution, industrial plant, hospital staff, public health service or in private practice, unless he can be replaced. But it is expected that all such positions ultimately can be filled by men over forty-five years, or those physically unfit for service under that age, and by women doctors, of whom the nation now has 8,000 in active practice.

### A NEW BOTANICAL HALL AT CARNEGIE MUSEUM

THE Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, according to *Museum News*, has transformed its Botanical Hall so completely as to make it a new hall both in installation and architectural design. Daylight has been eliminated by closing all the windows with solid stonework; an illusion of spaciousness has been given by a concave dome-like ceiling over an octagonal opening in a