

DR. CARL OSCAR JOHNS, chemical consultant, director of research, retired, of the Standard Oil Development Company, died on April 18, at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. SHIRLEY W. WYNNE, from 1928 to 1933 health commissioner of New York City, died on April 19, at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. JOHN BALDWIN WALKER, until his retirement in 1938 professor of clinical surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, died on April 13, at the age of eighty-two years.

DR. MARIA M. ROBERTS died on April 12, at the age of seventy-four years. Among the offices held during her fifty years of service at the Iowa State College

were the positions of dean of the Junior College and professor and head of the department of mathematics.

PROFESSOR JEAN PERRIN, Nobel laureate in 1926, formerly president of the French Academy of Sciences, died on April 17 at the age of seventy-one years. Since Dr. Perrin came to the United States last December he has been dean of the faculty of sciences of the recently established Franco-Belgian Free School of Higher Studies.

It is planned to establish a library in the University Hospital, in Philadelphia, in honor of the late Dr. George E. de Schweinitz, professor emeritus of ophthalmology of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Friends of Dr. de Schweinitz have undertaken to finance the project.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE WILLIAM LOWELL PUTNAM MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION

PROFESSOR W. D. CAIRNS, secretary-treasurer of the Mathematical Association of America, reports that the department of mathematics of the University of Toronto, Canada, won the first prize of \$400 in the fifth annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition held on March 7. This is the third year in five that the University of Toronto has taken first place in the competition made possible by the trustees of the William Lowell Putnam Interscholastic Memorial Fund, left by Mrs. Putnam in memory of her husband, a member of the Harvard class of 1882, and sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. The members of the Toronto team were K. S. Hoyle, H. V. Lyons, M. A. Preston.

The second prize of \$300 is awarded to the department of mathematics of Yale University, the members of whose team were F. H. Brownell, 3rd, A. M. Gleason, A. E. Roberts, Jr.

The third prize of \$200 is awarded to the department of mathematics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a team composed of E. D. Calabi, W. S. Loud, G. P. Wachtell.

The fourth prize of \$100 is awarded to the department of mathematics of the College of the City of New York, the members of whose team were Herman Chernoff, Harvey Cohn, Edward Gordon.

In addition to these prizes to the departments of mathematics with winning teams, a prize of \$50 each is awarded to the following five persons given in alphabetical order whose scores ranked highest in the six-hour examination: Harvey Cohn, College of the City of New York; A. M. Gleason, Yale University; W. S. Loud, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; H. V. Lyons, University of Toronto; M. A. Preston, University of Toronto. One of these five will later

be chosen to receive a \$1,000 a year scholarship at Harvard University.

The members of the four winning teams will receive individual cash awards according to the ranks of their teams, and all individuals receiving awards will also receive medals.

Honorable mention has been awarded this year to four teams and to five individuals. The teams are from the department of mathematics, Cooper Union Institute of Technology, New York, members of the team being Harold Grad, M. S. Klamkin, Kenneth Robinson; the department of mathematics, Harvard University, Cambridge, members of the team being R. M. Bloch, L. S. Shapley, J. A. Zilber; the department of mathematics, New York University, New York, members of the team being Melvin Lax, Harold Lewis, Henry Shenker; and the department of mathematics, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, members of the team being N. B. Hannay, W. H. Mills, M. S. Raff. The five individuals receiving honorable mention are E. D. Calabi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; C. P. Gadsden, Tulane University; K. S. Hoyle, University of Toronto; Melvin Lax, New York University; W. H. Mills, Swarthmore College.

THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY ON NATURE PROTECTION

THE National Parks Association reports that seven countries have ratified the Inter-American Treaty on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation to date, three of them since the United States entered World War II on December 8, 1941. This is welcome evidence of the intention to continue permanent cooperation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere for the peaceful purposes of preserving unique natural features, historic objects and vanishing wildlife.

Haiti became the fifth country to deposit its ratifi-

cation with the Pan American Union on January 31, 1942. In accordance with the provision of the original convention between the American republics, that it "shall come into force three months after deposit of not less than five ratifications with the Pan American Union," the treaty will take effect in the ratifying countries on May 1 of this year.

In order of deposit, the seven ratifying countries are as follows: the United States of America, April 7, 1941; Guatemala, August 14, 1941; Venezuela, November 3, 1941; El Salvador, December 2, 1941; Haiti, January 31, 1942; the Dominican Republic, March 3, 1942, and Peru (not yet deposited).

The original convention has been signed by the representatives of eleven other Latin-American countries, leaving only three that have taken no action to date. Species of fauna and flora to be specially protected under the treaty have already been designated by addition to the convention for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States.

The first official step towards realization of a Pan-American program for nature protection was taken with the signing of the original convention in Washington, D. C., on October 12, 1940. Now that the second step is assured with the coming into force of the treaty on May 1, it remains for each ratifying country to fulfil its obligations by enacting enabling legislation and issuing executive orders or decrees to implement the treaty and effectuate its purposes. Continual efforts to foster public education in the field of conservation will be necessary to give these official policies practical application and significance throughout the New World.

The objects of the treaty are to protect and preserve native fauna and flora in the American republics, including migratory birds, and to protect and preserve scenery of extraordinary beauty, unusual and striking geologic formations, regions and natural objects of esthetic, historic or scientific value. It provides for the establishment of national parks, national reserves, nature monuments and strict wilderness reserves as soon as possible after its effective date.

GRANTS OF THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION

THE Nutrition Foundation, Inc., recently organized with the support of the food industry, will make its first series of grants, to promote research and education in the science of nutrition, effective on July 1. An announcement made by George A. Sloan, president of the foundation, reads in part:

Grants made by the foundation will go to established institutions in the United States and Canada. The first series of grants, effective July 1, will be made following action to be taken by the trustees at their May meeting.

Problems of critical importance in the war emergency

will be given primary consideration. Food supplies for our allies and for specialized divisions of our armed forces as they spread to the far corners of the earth can not be provided without careful planning and adequate precautions.

Grants will also be made in the support of projects that have a direct bearing upon public health. There is obvious need for more information concerning the relation of diets to dental caries, and much remains to be discovered regarding the nutritional requirements of infants, growing children and people in old age. The foundation's long-time program, however, will place greatest emphasis upon fundamental research to advance the frontiers of science.

A CHINESE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY ON WEST COAST

THROUGH the efforts of a number of Chinese scientists and technical students in Southern California a new scientific society has been organized, to be called the "Chinese Natural Science Association, U. S. West Coast Chapter," under the auspices of the Chinese Natural Science Association at Chungking, China. The aim of this new organization is the advancement of study and research in the natural sciences and the attainment of a closer cooperation among the scientific workers of China and the United States.

The chapter now has two sections: one in Northern California centered at Berkeley and one in Southern California.

The first meeting was held on March 8. Professor Carl D. Anderson, of the California Institute of Technology, spoke on "Cosmic Rays and the Elementary Particles of Matter," and Dr. Hsueh Chung Kao spoke on "Vitamins in Nutrition." The second meeting will be held on April 12. Dr. John A. Anderson will speak on "The 200-inch Telescope" and Dr. Tze-Tuan Chen, lecturer in zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, will speak on "Some Recent Advances in Protozoology."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from March 31 to April 4.

Officers of the society elected for the ensuing year are as follows: *President*, A. Brazier Howell, department of anatomy, the Johns Hopkins Medical School; *Vice-presidents*, E. Raymond Hall, University of California at Berkeley, and Edward A. Goldman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.; *Recording Secretary*, Seth B. Benson, University of California at Berkeley; *Corresponding Secretary*, Emmet T. Hooper, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; *Treasurer*, Viola S. Schantz, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.; *Editor*, William B. Davis,