neers, the American Society for Testing Materials and the Illinois Society of Engineers. He was also an honorary member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, the Western Society of Engineers, the American Water Works Association, the American Concrete Institute and the American Railway Engineering Association. He was a very active member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, and held various offices, including that of president. He was also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Public Health Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Among other honors, Professor Talbot received the degrees of D.Sc. from the University of Pennsylvania, 1915; D.Eng. from the University of Michigan, 1916; and LL.D. from the University of Illinois, 1931. He was also the recipient of many medals and awards, including the Washington Award, Western Society of Engineers; the Henderson Medal of the Franklin Institute; the Turner Medal, American Concrete Institute; the Lamme Medal, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; the Fritz Medal, United Engineering Societies; and bronze plaques from the American Railway Engineering Association. In 1938, his work in developing a great materials research laboratory and staff was recognized by the University of Illinois by renaming the building in his honor, the Arthur Newell Talbot Laboratory.

A great engineer, teacher and director of research, Dr. Talbot was loved and respected for his quiet dignity, his broad technical interests and intellectual curiosity, his high ideals, his inspiring standards of thoroughness and precision, and for his kindly spirit of helpfulness and genuine interest toward all with whom he came in contact.

F. E. RICHART

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

RECENT DEATHS

WALTER F. REYNOLDS, chief of the section of triangulation of the Division of Geodesy of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, died on May 1. He was sixty-one years old.

EDWARD C. GROESBECK, metallurgist of the Division of Metallurgy of the National Bureau of Standards, died on May 8 in his sixty-first year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SWEDEN[1]

EXTENSIVE research activity is going on in Sweden, in order to find substitutes for products which can no longer be imported owing to the war. One of the most important centers for this research is the Physical-Chemical Institute, Uppsala, headed by Professor The Svedberg. The institute has now lost all the foreign research workers who used to study there, with the exception of one Swiss; nevertheless the staff has been doubled. Extensions have in particular been made to departments dealing with the many present supply problems, of which the chemical aspects fall within Professor Svedberg's own department, namely, the giant molecules. The work with different kinds of synthetic rosins and cellulose-derivatives is now progressing on a large scale. Among other objects of research may be mentioned bread. Experiments are being made to find a means of replacing imported hard wheat, which was formerly used to improve the baking qualities of bread made from Swedish native soft wheat. Investigations are also being carried out on synthetic rubber. The work has proceeded so far that the product has been evolved in the laboratories of the institute, although it is too early yet to say whether domestic production can be started and its probable extent.

One of the foremost technical means of research of this institute is the Svedberg ultra-centrifuge, which has become of the utmost importance to science. The rotor of this centrifuge is given a speed of up to 70,000 revolutions per minute by a number of oil turbines. The institute also houses such instruments for research as one of the world's largest electro-magnets and a neutron generator, both of which have been made in Sweden. In the biochemical section the experiments for locating and cultivating infantile paralysis virus and tuberculin on the basis of a new method for analyzing mixtures through molecule splitting are carried on under the direction of Professor Arne Tiselius, who has devised this method. The object in the first place is to obtain a pure form of virus. The stoppage of the import of apes for these experiments for a while threatened the workers with the loss of indispensable test animals, but it is stated that their replacement with rats has now proved acceptable.

[1] From *Nature*.

THE WARTIME SERVICE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

THE *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* gives the following information in regard to the wartime service of the members of the faculty.

To describe in a few words the modification of the university to the needs of wartime becomes inevitably a recital of facts and figures—a story which has been unfolding for many months. The faculty has accepted the

duty of leading the university to war. President Conant, whose clear-voiced challenge was one of the first heard in the United States in the present fight for freedom, now serves part-time in Washington as chairman of the National Defense Research Committee. Dean Landis of the Law School heads the Office of Civilian Defense. Dean Spaulding of the Graduate School of Education holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as special consultant to the War Department in Army educational problems. The dean of the Medical School, Dr. Burwell, serves as chairman of a sub-committee on the procurement of medical officers and research workers. Dean Drinker, of the School of Public Health, aids important research in the problems of flying at high altitudes.

Among the teaching members of the faculty, Professor William Y. Elliott of the department of government is director of the Raw Materials Division under William L. Batt, of the War Production Board. Many other professors of the departments of government, history and economics are employed full-time by the War Production Board, the Office of the Coordinator of Information and various important branches of the Government, lending their specialized skill to the intricate problems of war.

Even more might be said of the scientific departments of the university, could the story be told. A wide variety of confidential Government war projects are carried on in the strictest secrecy in the laboratories to the north of the Memorial Hall delta; in the workrooms of the Medical School or Business School. Much of this work is under contract with the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Others on the faculty who can not contribute to scientific work or active Government research are devoting themselves to programs of public information. Some 1,300 members of the faculty belong to American Defense-Harvard Group, pioneer war organization of the university, many of whose services have become a permanent part of the university's program. In addition to a War Service Information Bureau (headed by Professor A. J. Casner, of the Law School) five other important official groups aid students in their search for information about war work or make available to the public significant background material concerned with the progress of the war. The committees are: Selective Service (headed by John M. Russell, assistant to the president, only last week called to active duty as a Captain in the Army Air Corps), furnishing to students official information about the Selective Service law and aiding them in their formal relations with local boards; Civilian Defense (headed by Donald Scott, '00, director of the Peabody Museum), organizing the defense precautions of the university and planning the security of its resources; Wartime Speakers (headed by Acting Dean Henry W. Holmes, '03, of the School of Education), furnishing men with specialized knowledge for speeches before civic groups; Wartime Public Opinion (headed by Robert Lasch of the Omada *World Herald* and composed of Nieman Fellows) assisting the university with reports on wartime public opinion; and Pan-American Relations (headed by Professor Clarence H. Haring, '07, Master of Dunster House) caring for Latin-American students and arranging suitable programs for Latin-American visitors in the United States and American visitors in Latin America.

The entire faculty has by voluntary action placed itself on a year-round schedule without increase in pay, a step involving actual loss of income to many teachers obliged to surrender valuable summer jobs or consultative work. Their personal sacrifice is one answer to President Conant's pledge of "all resources of Harvard University" to insure a speedy and complete victory.

THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS

As a war measure, programs have been initiated to increase the supply of physicians for the Army, Navy and civilian population by the adoption of an accelerated program of medical education by the various medical schools of the country. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that in connection with the adoption of such programs, the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States in February, 1942, adopted resolutions as follows:

Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.—The council is of the opinion that the adoption of a program for an accelerated curriculum for approved medical schools during this war period is a decision which should be determined by each medical school.

The decision of a medical school to initiate an accelerated curriculum should be made only after a comprehensive survey of the personnel, facilities and equipment of the school and its ability to give a medical education without deterioration of the quality of the medical instruction and in conformity with the statutes of the various states and the rulings of the state medical boards.

The council stands ready to make necessary inspections whenever in its judgment such inspections are required to maintain the present high standards of medical education.

The council believes that financial assistance for needy medical students during the accelerated program is best provided through scholarships or loans.

Association of American Medical Colleges.—The executive council requested approval of the recommendations sent to the deans of member colleges December 18 and December 23, 1941, urging member colleges, which can do so without any lowering of present standards of medical education, to go on an accelerated program of instruction on or about July 1, 1942.

Attention is called to the fact that the executive council recommended that only those medical colleges that can do so without lowering present standards of medical education should adopt the accelerated program. This applies not only to the utilization of the summer as a teaching period but also to the interval at which freshman classes are admitted; that is, whether annually or at approximately nine-month intervals.