Bragg was keenly interested in the history of the Royal Institution and in the work of his great predecessor, Michael Faraday. He played a very prominent part in the publication of Faraday's diary and was responsible for bringing about a very delightful occasion when at the institution—the centenary of Faraday's discoveries, which was celebrated in 1931.

Sir William Bragg was born on July 2, 1862, at Wigton, Cumberland, England. In Adelaide he married Gwendoline, daughter of Sir Charles Todd, and had three children, Sir Lawrence Bragg, now at the University of Cambridge, Gwendy, now Mrs. Alban Caroe, and Robert. He was the recipient of many honors, among them the Order of Merit, the Nobel Prize for physics, the Rumford and Copley Medals, the Barnard Medal of Columbia University, and the Franklin Gold Medal of the Franklin Institute. He served as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and from 1935–40 was president of the Royal Society of London.

Sir William was noted for his kindly disposition and his courtesy to all. He had a simplicity of manner which endeared him both to his intimate colleagues and to those whom he met casually. Death has dealt heavily with physics during recent years. First Lord Rutherford, then his old professor, Sir J. J. Thomson, next the oldest of them all, Sir Oliver Lodge, and, finally, Sir William Bragg have been gathered to the halls of the illustrious dead. It is a grand and noble company which thus carries to Valhalla the records of achievement of the most fruitful epoch in the whole history of science.

W. F. G. SWANN

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## DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILLIAM LOGAN BENITZ, since 1896 professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Notre Dame until his retirement with the title emeritus in 1939, died on June 1. He was sixty-nine years old.

DR. JOSEPH HYDE PRATT, consulting engineer and geologist, from 1904 to 1926 professor of economic geology at the University of North Carolina and from 1905 to 1924 state geologist, died on June 2, at the age of seventy-two years.

DR. DONALD FRANCIS MACDONALD, consulting geologist for the Panama Canal Zone, formerly professor of geology at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, died on May 29 in his sixty-seventh year.

DR. MILLARD MANNING, assistant professor of physics at the University of Pittsburgh, died on June 1, at the age of thirty-six years.

THE REV. DR. THEODORE EVELYN REECE PHILLIPS, rector of Headley, Epsom, from 1916 to 1941, a past president of the Royal Astronomical Society and the British Astronomical Association, died on May 13, at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. G. G. STONEY, consulting engineer, from 1917 to 1926 professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Technology and in the Victoria University, Manchester, from 1926 to 1930 director of research at C. A. Parsons and Company, died on May 15 in his seventy-ninth year.

TAU CHAPTER of Nu Sigma Nu at Cornell University Medical College has voted to name its annual lectureship for Walter L. Niles, dean of the college for many years and at the time of his death in December, 1941, acting dean. A fellowship in the department of medicine at Cornell also has been established in Dr. Niles's memory.

# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## DRUG CONTROL IN INDIA

*Nature* gives an account of progress in the problem of drug standardization and control in India.

In January, 1937, the nucleus of a central laboratory, the Biochemical Standardization Laboratory, was established, under the direction of Sir R. N. Chopra, in Calcutta, at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. The laboratory has now made satisfactory progress in the limited number of studies undertaken and has trained adequate personnel and laid sure foundations for future work in this field as evidenced in the triennial report of the laboratory. During the three years preceding the introduction of the Drugs Bill in February, 1940, it was thought that the best course for the laboratory was to undertake a general survey of the quality of medical drugs in the Indian market and an examination of the specimens of drugs both imported and manufactured in India which were suspected to be of inferior quality.

Many drug manufacturing firms in India do not maintain properly equipped pharmacological laboratories with trained personnel capable of undertaking the standardization of chemotherapeutic preparations, and it was natural that ethical manufacturing concerns interested in the quality of their products should approach the only government organization available with requests to have their products standardized.

In the initial stages the laboratory had necessarily to restrict itself to certain definite drugs of com-