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

BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
SWARTHMORE, PA.

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-

paratively greater importance to the pharmaceutical and medical professions. Routine analytical work was therefore largely concentrated on surveying the quality of tinctures of digitalis, strophanthus and squills, extract of posterior pituitary gland and adrenaline hydrochloride solution. In addition to the routine activities a good deal of interest in research problems on subjects which have a direct or indirect bearing on drug work was consistently maintained. For example, one of the first group of drugs which the laboratory investigated was the cardiac drugs of the digitalis series. Liquid preparations of these drugs deteriorate at a fairly rapid rate when stored under the climatic conditions existing in India, and factors leading to this deterioration and loss of potency have been the subject of investigation. Again, the estimation of the antidiuretic potency of pituitary extract in rats was given an extensive trial and found to be quite reliable and to compare favorably with the results obtained by the oxytocic method. In addition, the laboratory has the responsibility of acting as the national center for the maintenance and distribution of certain international surgical standards.

CONSERVATION AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXPEDITIONS

TWO projects are announced by the National Park Service, whereby this agency will cooperate in encouraging mutual understanding of conservation problems between the Americas.

A combined plant-hunting expedition and lecture tour in South America is being undertaken by Dr. T. Harper Goodspeed, director of the Botanical Garden at the University of California and a collaborator of the National Park Service. His expedition is a joint project in which the University of California and South American institutions are cooperating. Well known to both continents, because of two other scientific trips to South America in 1935–36 and 1938–39, and author of the recently issued book, "Plant Hunter in the Andes," Dr. Goodspeed has been invited to lecture in Spanish and Portuguese in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. His lectures will include color motion pictures of the National Parks of western United States and deal with wildlife conservation.

A Roosevelt Fellowship for study in South America has recently been awarded to Julian Vogt, ranger naturalist successively in six western National Parks. This traveling fellowship of the Institute for International Education was established by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, which has financed the project. Ten United States students have been awarded these exchange fellowships, and one student in each of the twenty other American republics. In announcing the project, the coordinator, Nelson Rockefeller, stated:

> The 21 American republics confidently face the future together, during the war and after. The scholarship program which the American republics have jointly arranged affords another strong bond to assure the cooperation essential to victory and stable peace.

Mr. Vogt, a graduate of the University of California, will study at the University of Buenos Aires, concentrating on South American policies of conservation. He will also visit the National Parks and reservations of various countries in South America.

THE FLORA OF CUBA

BROTHER LÉON (Joseph Sylvestre Sauget y Barbier), for many years a professor on the staff of the Colegio de la Salle, Vedado, Havana, Cuba, has received a special grant from the Milton Fund, Harvard University, to be utilized by him in preparing for publication a comprehensive work on the flora of Cuba.

Throughout his long residence in Cuba, Brother Léon has devoted a large amount of time to accumulating data on the flora of Cuba, and from his wide experience is eminently fitted to consummate the task to which he has set his hand. Some years ago, in recognition of his accomplishments as a botanist, he was the recipient of an honorary doctorate of science from Columbia University.

Brother Léon was appointed as collaborator on the staff of the Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, in 1938, in appreciation of his botanical accomplishments. In furtherance of the cooperative work on the flora of Cuba between Harvard and other institutions, may be mentioned the recently published, copiously illustrated volume of 496 pages by Brother Léon and Brother Marie-Victorin, entitled "Itinéraires botaniques dans l'île de Cuba," issued in 1942 by the Botanical Laboratory of the University of Montreal. Publication was made possible through a subvention to the University of Montreal, through the Atkins Institution. The Milton Fund grant to Brother Léon is further evidence of interest in this field of international cooperation. It is the first time that a grant from this fund has been made available for expenditure through an institution outside of the United States, thus forming an excellent illustration of inter-American collaboration.

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE SCIENCE SOCIETY OF CHINA

A NUMBER of Chinese scientists in New York City have joined in forming an organization known as "The Science Society of China, New York Chapter." This society was organized originally at Cornell University in 1914 and later was established in China in