

fourth is for the most remarkable current literary work of an idealistic tendency. All hail to the fifth! It is given to the person or society that renders the greatest service to the cause of international brotherhood, in the suppression or reduction of standing armies or in the establishment or furtherance of international congresses to promote peace. Numerous Nobel prizes have been given and to representatives of many countries.

The friendly relations which prevailed among all nations, before the world wars of this century, fostered and were fostered by the international societies which grew up among the eminent men of science in each of its principal branches. Every science from astronomy to zoology, throughout the alphabet, had its occasional congresses held in turn in the different nations. Fast friendships were formed across the seas. It was inspiring to meet the eminent discoverers, whom one had grown to admire through their published works, to be found in the scientific libraries of all nations.

These congresses took up world problems in science, assigned suitable parts to the several nations harmonious to their opportunities, and thus astonishing

progress often followed, far beyond what individuals could have done without organized cooperation.

In recent time we lament to see a reaction against this friendly policy of Smithsonian and of Nobel. Germany fifty years ago was revered as a world's leader in culture. American students who wished to be liberally educated went by thousands at great financial sacrifice to enjoy the benefit of the invigorating German scientific atmosphere. But now, we are informed, not only are illustrious Germans like Einstein obliged to fly from their country, but science, art, religion and truth itself are warped and emasculated so as not to appear to contradict the cruel and hateful policy of the German rulers. All information is censored and death is the penalty for listening to the news broadcast from other nations. In conquered countries the Germans seek to exterminate culture and reduce the inhabitants to slavish status. Our lines have run into very dangerous times. Truth is gravely threatened. Free peoples everywhere emulate one another in the sacrifice of their dearest possessions to preserve for the world the Smithsonian ideal of altruistic increase and diffusion of knowledge among all men.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. FRANCIS RAMALEY, professor of biology emeritus of the University of Colorado, botanical editor of *Ecology*, died on June 10, in his seventy-second year.

DR. ROY K. FLANNAGAN, medical director of the department of public health of Virginia, died on June 18, at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. LAURENCE S. MOYER, of the department of botany of the University of Minnesota, was killed recently in a blimp accident near Atlantic City while on a mission for the Navy.

DR. WILLIAM A. BRYAN, director of the Los Angeles Museum of History, Science and Art, died on June 18, at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. A. R. FORSYTH, emeritus professor of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, died on June 2, at the age of eighty-four years.

Nature reports the death of Professor Charles Cohen, formerly of the Pasteur Institute, Brussels, aged sixty-one years; of Dr. John Miller, director of aircraft production (factories), formerly chief engineer, London and North-Eastern Railway; of Professor G. A. Witherington, formerly of the department of mathematics in the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, aged sixty-nine years, and of Dr. Bernhard Fischer-Wasels, professor of morbid anatomy at Frankfurt-on-Main, president of the German

Pathological Society and editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitschrift für Pathologie*, at the age of sixty-five years.

IN connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Torrey Botanical Club, the department of botany of Columbia University observed the fiftieth anniversary of its organization as a separate department of the university and the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of the first professor of botany in Columbia College, then at Astor Place in lower Manhattan. Dr. Richard S. Kissam was appointed to the chair of botany on February 20, 1792, and was thus the third designated professor of botany in America, being preceded in point of time only by Adam Kuhn in 1768 and Benjamin Barton in 1789 at the College of Philadelphia. The department of botany was eventually organized a hundred years later as a distinct school at Columbia by Dr. Nathaniel Britton. In observance of these anniversaries an exhibit depicting the development of botany at Columbia was held in Low Memorial Library during the month of June.

GRASSLAND RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN¹

THE appointment of Sir George Stapledon as the director of the Ministry of Agriculture Grassland Improvement Station, Dodwell, marks a break in a long period of pioneer service which may be said to

¹ From *Nature*.