

investigation of fundamental problems of compass design, compensation and dynamic deviation, which continued until his retirement from active duty, June 30, 1934. A large part of the progress made in the investigations of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism in its fields must be credited to Captain Peters in these twenty years of his professional life.

When the British Admiralty decided in 1935 to build a non-magnetic vessel—*Research*—to carry forward the geomagnetic survey at sea previously done by the *Carnegie*, that organization invited the Carnegie Institution of Washington to make available as an expert consultant the services of Captain Peters to aid in the vessel's design and in her instrumental equipment. Nothing illustrates so well the selfless interest and enthusiasm as his acceptance of this responsibility and the sacrifice of a year of his well-earned privilege of retirement. Arriving in England in the fall of 1935, as a representative of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he took active part for over a year in the design of the new vessel and of her equipment—tasks for which his unique experience so peculiarly fitted him. The Admiralty took occasion to record its high appreciation of this valuable aid which had done so much to make possible the later launching of the *Research*. She was rapidly being equipped for her first cruise to Washington, D. C., and thence through the South Atlantic into the Indian Ocean, when the outbreak of the war in 1939 made it necessary to postpone her work.

Following his work in England and service as a delegate of the United States at the triennial Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Edinburgh in 1936, Captain Peters continued to devote much of his leisure time to scholarly studies. Many were the calls upon him as a recognized authority in polar exploration and nautical science. One of his last studies involved an investigation of the log of the cruise of Ponce de León and discussions bearing on his route to and landfall near St. Augustine, Florida.

Some 50 volumes and publications evidence the extent of Peters' scientific activities. These show not only a mind trained by practical experience but also one unusually skilled in higher mathematics and the

exact sciences—acquired only by persistent study in each new field or problem as it was presented—and in their useful applications.

Captain Peters died at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on July 10, 1942. He is survived by his widow, Beatrice Speaight Boyd Peters, and his son, Geoffrey Lloyd Peters.

All who had the privilege of acquaintance and friendship with Captain Peters unite in estimating him as a thoroughly modest gentleman and capable experimenter and investigator. All who served with him in any capacity unite in praise of his sympathetic unselfish guidance to attainment in their activities. His share in the edifice of geophysical science is a solid foundation for future building.

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### DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

MAURICE L. CARR, director of research of the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory, died on July 13 at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. WILLARD A. ROBERTS, of the department of research lamp development at the Nela Park branch of the General Electric Company, died on July 24 at the age of fifty-two years.

SIR WILLIAM MATTHEW FLINDERS PETRIE, the British archeologist, died in Jerusalem on July 28. He was eighty-nine years old.

SIR DANIEL HALL, F.R.S., who was director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station from 1902 to 1912, died on July 5, at the age of seventy-eight years.

DR. RICHARD WILLSTAETTER, formerly professor at Munich and Berlin, Nobel laureate in chemistry, died in Switzerland on August 2. He would have celebrated his seventieth birthday on August 13.

THE recently completed two-story brick building on the grounds of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, will be named the Britton Laboratory, in memory of Dr. Wilton Everett Britton. Dr. Britton, until his death in 1939, was for about forty years entomologist of the Experiment Station and state entomologist.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE ENDOWMENT OF AN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE AT OXFORD

THE Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, with the approval of Lord Nuffield, will, according to the *Times*, London, devote £10,000 a year for ten years to the creation at the University of Oxford of a university professorship of social medicine and the founda-

tion of an institute in which the professor will work.

The purposes of the institute are:

To investigate the influence of social, genetic, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability.

To seek and promote measures, other than those usually employed in the practice of remedial medicine, for the