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.

JNO. A. FLEMING
DEPARTMENT OF TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM,
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

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 foundation 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

protection of the individual and of the community against such forces as interfere with the full development and maintenance of man's mental and physical capacity.

If required by the university to do so, to make provision in the institute for the instruction in social medicine of students and practitioners of medicine approved by the board of the faculty of medicine in the University of Oxford.

There will be an administrative committee for the institute on which the trust will be represented by six members. In this way cooperation will be furthered between the institute and other research institutions established elsewhere by the trust.

Six years ago Lord Nuffield devoted £2,000,000, augmented later by gifts for special purposes of more than £600,000, to the endowment of medical research in the University of Oxford, believing that in a great university medical research would get inspiration and help from its contact with other studies of all kinds. In December, 1939, he endowed the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, of which W. M. Goodenough, who is chairman of the trust connected with medical endowment at Oxford University, is also the chairman. This trust is empowered to spend money on a wide range of purposes which can be of benefit to the hospital services.

FINANCES OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, 1936–1942

THE following account was given in *The Johns Hopkins University Gazette* of the finances of the university:

The 1936 sustaining fund was launched to meet the operating deficits, principally of the Homewood divisions of the university, which had in 1935 mounted to nearly $200,000 annually.

This appeal embraced two main objectives: first, to provide a sustaining fund of $750,000 to maintain operations on a satisfactory level for a three-year period; and second, to secure additional capital funds of $10,000,000 needed to insure stability and to continue the normal functions of a first-class university.

Subscriptions to the sustaining fund amounted to $560,000. This sum has met the operating deficits at Homewood during the seven intervening years, instead of the three years originally contemplated. In the meantime, the university fulfilled its promise to reduce expenses to a bare minimum. The annual deficit of $177,000 in 1936 has been reduced to approximately $34,000 in 1940–41.

Meanwhile, progress has been made on the second objective of the 1936 appeal through gifts and bequests to the university of nearly $4,000,000. The chief items making up this total are:

Estate of James Swan Frick	$324,000
Estate of Louis J. Boury	955,000
Gift of Henry Strong Denison Medical Foundation	100,000
Rockefeller Foundation for Preventive Medicine	350,000
Rockefeller Foundation for Biological Sciences	500,000
Estate of John Martin Vincent	945,000
Estate of Alfred Jenkins Shriver	158,943[1]

While these amounts have been received, because of restrictions imposed they are not entirely available for endowment funds. Neither the School of Medicine nor the School of Hygiene and Public Health was included in the appeal in 1936 for sustaining funds. The endowment of the School of Hygiene, restricted to its use, is sufficient at this time to care for the needs of the school.

Expenses of the School of Medicine, however, have increased materially, causing an annual deficit in 1936 of $5,089.31, mounting to $52,336.82 in the year just passed. These deficits have been met up to the present time by the expenditure of unrestricted funds available for such purpose. The chief item of increase has been in instruction and departmental research where expenditures from general funds have increased about $46,700; operation and maintenance of physical plant has at the same time increased approximately $7,900.

THE KING OF ENGLAND'S BIRTHDAY HONORS LIST

THE following names of scientific men and others associated with scientific work appear in the King's Birthday Honors list, printed in *Nature:*

O.M.: Dr. E. D. Adrian, professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge.

Baron: J. M. Keynes, the distinguished economist.

K.C.M.G.: Sir Guy Marshall, director of the Imperial Institute of Entomology.

K.B.E.: Dr. C. G. Darwin, director of the National Physical Laboratory.

Knights: Dr. R. H. Fowler, Plummer professor of mathematical physics in the University of Cambridge, lately liaison officer in North America; Dr. W. H. Fyfe, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Aberdeen; H. Gaskell, a director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; W. Gavin, chief agricultural adviser, Ministry of Agriculture; L. Mason, deputy director-general of supply, India, and lately inspector-general of forests; Professor W. F. Shaw, president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Major-General J. Taylor, I.M.S., director of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli; R. A. Watson Watt, scientific adviser on telecommunications, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

[1] Actually received from a bequest approximating one million dollars.