

ment that are responsible for these differences include moisture, temperature, light, nutrition and many geographic and cultural conditions that affect these things; (4) there must be appropriate environmental conditions before any gene or combination of genes can have selective value, either natural or in plant breeding, otherwise they may be entirely lost; (5) in tests, suitable conditions may have to be provided artificially; (6) the cumulative effect of modifying factors under a particular set of environmental conditions can be taken advantage of by the plant breeder in improving the adaptability of selections having special market appeal; (7) the value of any heritable character under a particular set of conditions may bear no relation to its development or lack of development under other environmental conditions; (8) work in experimental taxonomy encourages the belief that the adaptability of many crops for southern and western conditions can be materially improved by breeding and selection even though they have been developed primarily for other regions with quite different conditions; (9) improvement might be expected in some cases through intervarietal crosses by accumulating genes from different varieties that may have a favor-

able effect directly or in combination; and finally (10) in other cases more rapid progress may be expected by outcrossing to wild forms where these are available or by making wide crosses among cultivated forms. Perhaps this summary carries its own moral. As a matter of fact much of the breeding work in the South and Southwest has been and still is in line with these considerations.

This interest in breeding for increased adaptability to southern conditions evident in the past ten years is very encouraging. As the work progresses we may expect an even larger accumulation of hereditary factors favoring quality and production under our conditions. This will make it increasingly easy to synthesize a variety according to certain specifications. There is still a good deal of spade work to be done. This means that we must discover new genes judging their value to us not by their expression under a different environment, but by what they can do under conditions peculiar to our own locality, both as individual hereditary factors and in new combinations. With these it seems reasonable to expect that we can provide the plant material basis for an increasingly prosperous southern horticulture.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECENT DEATHS

HERMAN STABLER, since 1925 chief of the conservation branch of the U. S. Geological Survey, died on November 24, at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. REUBEN PETERSON, until his retirement in 1931 with the title emeritus for thirty years professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Michigan, died on November 25, at the age of eighty years.

DR. SAMUEL HANFORD MCKEE, ophthalmologist at the Montreal General Hospital, formerly clinical professor of ophthalmology at McGill University, died on November 25. He was sixty-seven years old.

A RECENT message received through the American Red Cross announces the death in Germany on July 5 of Professor Oskar Bolza at the age of eighty-five years. He was a reader in mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University in 1888-89, associate at Clark University, 1889-93, associate professor at the University of Chicago, 1893-94, and professor, 1894 to 1910. For many years past he had been non-resident professor living in Freiburg.

DR. RICHARD B. GOLDSCHMIDT, professor of zoology at the University of California, writes: Mrs. L. Goldschmidt, widow of the crystallographer, Professor Victor Goldschmidt, of Heidelberg, who had been professor there for about forty years and had be-

queathed his fine art collection with a large endowment to Heidelberg University, recently committed suicide at the age of eighty-two years, when the Nazis wanted to deport her to a Polish ghetto.

TRANSFER TO THE UNITED STATES OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY

By a vote of the delegates from all the affiliated societies of the Americas, representing Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, the headquarters of the International Society of Surgery has been provisionally transferred from Brussels to the United States.

In explaining the need for the change Dr. Rudolph Matas, of New Orleans, acting secretary and treasurer, said:

The German occupation of Belgium and the Nazi devastation of the rest of Europe and all the other war-torn nations had virtually restricted the international relations of the society to the Western Hemisphere, where its fellowship is widely spread through its affiliated branches in North, Central and South America.

The Executive Committee of the United States Division, the largest, most active contributor to the transaction, felt it their duty conjointly with their Latin American colleagues to rescue the society from the perils of the Euro-