

Scotia, on April 18, 1917, the son of Dr. and Mrs. M. F. Ronan. He received his early education at Morrison School and graduated in 1935 from St. Francis Xavier University with the degree of B.Sc., *magna cum laude*, a few weeks after his eighteenth birthday. Some of the results of his petrographical studies for the M.A. degree at the same institution were incorporated by his professor, the late Dr. Donald F. MacDonald, geological adviser on Panama Canal work, in "Contributions to Panama Geology" (*Jour. Geol.*, 45: 655-662, 1937).

In 1936 Mr. Ronan was awarded an assistantship in the Department of Geology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., which position he occupied for the next three years. In 1939 he went to the University of Wisconsin as holder of the Charles R. Van Hise Fellowship and remained at Madison until June, 1942, as research assistant.

Laying a broad and firm foundation of field experience for his professional career, Mr. Ronan spent the summers of 1936 to 1940 as field assistant with parties of the Geological Survey of Canada in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. The Department of Mines of Nova Scotia in 1941 made him a grant to study the igneous rocks of Guysborough County; this was to have been the subject of his doctorate dissertation at the University of Wisconsin.

Unselfishly interrupting his graduate research, which was nearing completion, Mr. Ronan last summer assumed charge of one of the field parties of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland to investigate iron and strontium resources, and after the regular field season consented to supervise further diamond drilling operations on these ores, which are important in the war effort. He met his death when about to take up his winter duties.

In grateful tribute, the mineral location at Boswarlos, Port au Port Bay, west coast of Newfoundland, to which John Joseph Ronan was devoting his scientific training, henceforth will be known officially as the "Ronan Strontium Deposit."

A. K. SNELGROVE

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. HARRISON E. HOWE, editor of *Industrial and*

*Engineering Chemistry*, died on December 10 at the age of sixty years.

ROBERT PEELE, professor emeritus of mining engineering of the School of Mines of Columbia University and editor since 1917 of "The Mining Engineers' Handbook," died on December 8. He was eighty-four years old.

DR. ALFRED BAKER SPALDING, since 1930 emeritus professor of gynecology and obstetrics of the School of Medicine of Stanford University, died on November 27 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. FREDERICK MARK BECKETT, consultant to the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation, New York, N. Y., died on December 1 at the age of sixty-seven years.

CHARLES W. FREDERICK, head of the Science Division of the lens factory of the Eastman Kodak Company at Rochester, N. Y., died on November 29 at the age of seventy-two years.

THE death at the age of eighty-four years is announced of Sir Henry Miers. Sir Henry was Waynflete professor of mineralogy at the University of Oxford from 1895 to 1908; principal of the University of London, 1908 to 1915, and vice-chancellor of the University of Manchester and professor of crystallography, 1915 to 1926.

*Nature* records the death of Dr. Alfred Baker, emeritus professor of mathematics of the University of Toronto, where he occupied the chair of mathematics from 1887 until 1919, president in 1915 of the Royal Society of Canada, on October 27, at the age of ninety-four years; of Dr. J. N. Collie, F.R.S., emeritus professor of organic chemistry of the University of London, on November 1, at the age of eighty-three years, and of Dr. J. C. Schoute, emeritus professor of botany of the University of Groningen, president of the sixth International Botanical Congress, at the age of sixty-five years.

THE death is announced at the age of seventy-seven years of Professor Carl Dorno, who founded and directed the Physical Meteorological Observatory at Davos, Switzerland.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### GRANTS FOR WAR RESEARCH TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

CONTRACTS with the United States Government for war research by the University of Cincinnati negotiated during the summer, reported by Dr. Raymond Walters, president of the university, were approved on October 6 by the board of directors of the university.

Ranging from \$2,500 to \$12,000 and amounting in all to \$42,000, these contracts are for investigations now under way in the College of Medicine and the department of leather research of the university for the Office of Scientific Research and Development and in the College of Engineering and Commerce for the Army Air Corps.

In several instances the federal grants were exten-