Daniel's experience in university administration began long before he became head of the department of zoology. He rendered noteworthy service as chairman of some of the important faculty committees such as the committee on budget and inter-departmental relations and the library committee. In the opinion of the author, Dr. Daniel's most significant contribution as chairman of his department was his interest in and encouragement of young men and women of high scholarship. His graduate assistants were selected with exceeding care and their apprenticeship in teaching and development as scientists and scholars were carefully studied. To them he was personally devoted, far more, perhaps, than they will ever know. In his passing they have lost a friend and a counselor; he survives, however, a symbol and a creed.

RICHARD M. EAKIN
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

## RECENT DEATHS

DR. FRANZ BOAS, professor emeritus of anthropology of Columbia University, died on December 21 at the age of eighty-three years.

DR. FRANK DAWSON ADAMS, Logan professor of geology at McGill University from 1894 to 1931 and emeritus vice-principal of the university, died on December 26 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. JABEZ HENRY ELLIOTT, president of the American Association of the History of Medicine and professor of the history of medicine at the University of Toronto, died on December 18. He was sixty-nine years old.

DR. WILLIAM MARTIN BLANCHARD, professor of chemistry and dean emeritus of the DePauw University College of Liberal Arts, died on December 21. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. HANS G. BEUTLER, research associate in physics at the University of Chicago, died on December 15 at the age of forty-six years. Dr. Beutler, who came to this country in 1936 from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry in Berlin, was a spectroscopist.

# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## TERCENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF ISAAC NEWTON[1]

WHEN the tercentenary of the birth of Sir Isaac Newton was celebrated by Fellows of the Royal Society, in the Royal Institution, in December, Sir Henry Dale, president of the society, announced the successful conclusion of negotiations to acquire and preserve the birthplace "of the greatest of our men of science." The Pilgrim Trust, he said, will be responsible for the sum required for the purchase, which the Lord of the Manor of Woolsthorpe (Lincolnshire) has agreed to at a price substantially less than its value.

Sir Henry Dale described how

> in the hamlet of Woolsthorpe, near Colsterworth, on the Great North Road, some six miles south of Grantham, there is still a modest manor farmhouse, with a small orchard in front of it. Here the Newtons lived, simple yeoman farmers, and here, two months after his father had died, Isaac Newton was born, a puny, premature infant, on Christmas Day, 1642, 20 years before the Royal Society was incorporated by the grant of its first charter. The house stands but little altered since that day. The room in which Newton was born has a simple marble tablet on the wall, inscribed with Pope's well-known couplet.
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> But this house had importance in Newton's later life and in his work, and not only as his birthplace. It was here that he returned from his schooling at Grantham, at the age of 16, to take charge of the farm for his mother; and here, to the incalculable gain of science and the world, he showed such incompetence as a farmer that he was sent back to school and thence to Cambridge. It was here, again, that he returned in the autumn of 1665, when the plague drove him from Cambridge; and here, during the following 18 months of quiet exile in the country, his early ripening genius grasped already the essential principles of his major theoretical discoveries. One can still see the upper chamber which he then used as a study; and in the little orchard there is an old, recumbent apple tree which, one will be told, is descended by direct grafting from that which Newton saw.

The land which Newton's family farmed was rapidly being laid waste by quarrying for iron-stone and soon there would have been little left unspoiled save the orchard and garden round the house. The Royal Society felt that something should be done to preserve for posterity a house and garden which carried such momentous memories, and which had meant so much for science. Accordingly a small committee was formed, in which Sir John Russell and Sir James Jeans joined with the officers of the society to negotiate with the lord of the manor, Major E. B. Turnor, of Ponton Hall, near Grantham, in order to put this tiny but historic property for as long as possible beyond the risk of damage or decay.

[1] The *Times*, London.

## ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

DR. THOMAS MIDGLEY, JR., vice-president of the Ethyl Corporation, known for his discovery of tetraethyl lead which has made possible dramatic advances

in automotive and aircraft engines, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1944.

Dr. Midgley will take office as president-elect on January 1, when Dr. Per K. Frolich, director of the Chemical Division, Esso Laboratories of the Standard Oil Development Company, Elizabeth, N. J., a leader in the development of synthetic rubber, becomes president, succeeding Dr. Harry N. Holmes, head of the department of chemistry at Oberlin College.

Dr. Midgley was chosen by the council from four nominees receiving the largest number of votes in a national mail ballot of approximately 32,000 members of the society. The council includes national officers, directors, editors of the publications, past presidents, the chairmen of eighteen professional divisions and councilors from a hundred local sections, and councilors-at-large.

Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, president of the Western Precipitation Company, Los Angeles, Calif., was elected a director-at-large to succeed Dr. Midgley. Dr. Leason H. Adams, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Professor Robert E. Swain, of Stanford University, were reelected regional directors.

New councilors-at-large are: Dr. M. L. Crossley, director of research of the Calco Chemical Division, American Cyanamid Company, Bound Brook, N. J.; Professor Vincent du Vigneaud, head of the department of chemistry, Cornell University Medical College, New York; Dr. W. Albert Noyes, Jr., professor of physical chemistry in the University of Rochester, and Professor R. L. Shriner, chairman of the department of chemistry of Indiana University.

According to the official announcement of the society:

> Dr. Midgley has won recognition for discoveries which are outstanding both from the standpoint of pioneering in new fields and from the standpoint of commercial importance. His discovery in 1922 of tetraethyl lead as an antiknock agent was made after he and his colleagues in the General Motors Research Laboratories had tried more than 33,000 different chemical compounds without success.
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> The performance of the modern military and transport plane, it is pointed out, is due in large part to the spectacular development of high-octane gasoline, a development in which tetraethyl lead, now a vital war material, has played an important role.
>
> He has contributed largely to the knowledge of the chemistry of rubber and the methods of synthesizing rubber. With Dr. Albert L. Henne, of the Ohio State University, he developed the organic chlorofluorides which have become widely used as non-inflammable, non-toxic refrigerants. He was associated with the developments connected with the recovery of bromine from sea water.

Dr. Midgley, speaking on the occasion of the award to him of the Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society on May 22 of this year, stated that "America's acute shortage of rubber must be laid to rubber technologists who have failed to develop practical methods of separating this vital material from plants growing plentifully in our own country."

Dr. Midgley has also been awarded the Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society, the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section, the Perkin Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry and the Longstreth Medal of the Franklin Institute. Wooster College conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon him in 1933. He is a member of numerous scientific organizations.

Dr. Midgley was born on May 18, 1889, at Beaver Falls, Pa. His father, Thomas Midgley, an inventor and manufacturing executive, came to the United States from London, England, at the age of six. Dr. Midgley attended the public schools of Ohio and later Betts Academy at Stamford, Conn. He received the degree of mechanical engineer from Cornell University in 1911.

After his graduation he entered the employ of the National Cash Register Company, Dayton, Ohio. Later, with his father, he established the Midgley Tire and Rubber Company of Lancaster, Ohio. In 1916 he returned to Dayton and began work under Dr. Charles F. Kettering, with whom he has since been associated in various activities, including the organization of the General Motors Research Corporation. He is vice-president of Kinetic Chemicals, Inc., chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society and vice-president of Ohio State University Research Foundation. He holds about one hundred patents.

## AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL TO DR. ARMSTRONG

THE Edison Medal for 1942 has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Edwin Howard Armstrong, professor of electrical engineering at Columbia University, "for distinguished contributions to the art of electric communication, notably the regenerative circuit, the superheterodyne, and frequency modulation." The medal will be presented to Dr. Armstrong an the evening of January 27, in the Engineering Auditorium, 33 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y., during the national technical meeting of the institute to be held in the Engineering Societies Building from January 25 to 29.

The Edison Medal was founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a com-