

threads that we must weave through the fabric of our industrial production and transportation systems to supply and maintain our modern armies and navies.

By contributing to the solution of America's rubber crisis, each one of us will do a wartime job of No. 1 importance. Any circumstance or any policy that prevents the effective functioning of our home-front industries and essential civilian transportation can be just as disastrous to our war effort as a defeat in battle.

Our gallant fighting men know that courage alone is a thin weapon against Axis planes and tanks. They

look squarely to our country to deliver in time and where needed superior weapons and equipment—weapons and equipment which require thousands of tons of rubber.

The design, construction and capacity operation of our many giant synthetic rubber plants—in time—will be one of the greatest industrial achievements of all time. Conservation of rubber must bridge the gap until our rubber problem has been solved.

Industry is supremely conscious of its part in this grave responsibility, and the American people are now fully conscious of their own important role.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### RECENT DEATHS

DR. GARY N. CALKINS, emeritus professor of protozoology, of Columbia University, died on January 4, in his seventy-fourth year.

DR. DAVID M. LICHTY, who retired in 1932 from an associate professorship of chemistry at the University of Michigan, died on December 24, at the age of eighty years.

THE death is announced of Alfred Nelson Finn, for many years chief of the department of optical glass of the National Bureau of Standards, at the age of sixty years.

DR. JAMES EDMUND IVES, until his retirement in 1936 senior physicist of the U. S. Public Health Service, died on January 1, of injuries received when struck by a street car on New Year's Eve. He was seventy years old.

DR. ANDREW H. PALMER, who from 1914 to 1924 was a meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau and was later superintendent of crops and weather insurance of the Aetna Affiliated Companies, San Francisco, died on December 26, at the age of fifty-six years.

DR. PURNENDU NATH CHAKRAVORTY, a native of India, research chemist with the Upjohn Company and formerly associated with the department of chemistry at Princeton University, was killed in a railroad crossing accident on December 23. He was thirty-seven years old.

HARVEY L. WESTOVER, senior agronomist in charge of forage crop investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, known for his work with alfalfa, died on January 2, at the age of sixty-three years.

FREDERICK DIXON CHESTER, chief chemist of the Mimex Company, Long Island City, died on January 1, at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. E. J. ALLEN, from 1895 to 1936 secretary of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom and director of Plymouth Laboratory, died on December 7 at the age of seventy-six years. The Linnean Gold Medal was awarded to him in 1926; the Darwin Medal of the Royal Society in 1936, and the Agassiz Medal for Oceanography of the National Academy of Sciences in 1936.

### AMERICAN LIBRARIES AND FOREIGN PERIODICALS

It is reported by Harold Lancour, librarian of Cooper Union, chairman of the Engineering School Libraries Section of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, that American librarians are tracking down hundreds of publications which seep into this country from Axis-dominated areas and which contain valuable technical and scientific data eagerly sought by scientific workers.

Through an investigation in progress since last August, the section has already ascertained that more than 800 periodicals published in Germany and Japan as well as in countries occupied by the Axis are reaching the United States sporadically and by devious channels, despite mailing restrictions and accidents in transit.

Many foreign periodicals legally mailed go down with torpedoed ships or are held up to make room for more vital cargo. Others, not permitted to go outside the country which publishes them, are smuggled out by refugees; some pass the censor in limited numbers; still others reach Americans by mail from scientific men in conquered lands which do not permit bulk mailings but which allow individuals to send out one or two periodicals.

Spotty holdings of foreign periodicals by libraries throughout the country, with many issues and titles missing completely since 1939, has created a demand for a master file through which every library will be able to find quickly any issue of any foreign peri-