

at this time made it impossible for him to prepare this obituary notice.

Though now resigned from the museum payroll, Miss Rathbun went to work as usual, and continued to serve full time for twenty-five years thereafter. Thus her Government service ended as it began—with devotion to science and without compensation.

Her own special field of interest was the Crustacea, particularly the crabs, both recent and fossil. Her bibliography on these animals embraces 158 titles. Perhaps her most important and best-known works are her four large monographs on the grapsoid, spider, canceroid and oxystomatous crabs of America, published as bulletins of the U. S. National Museum between 1918 and 1937. In 1917 the George Washington University conferred upon her the degree of doctor of philosophy in recognition of her work on the grapsoid crabs.

Miss Rathbun was interested in a number of charities, but her assistance and contributions to worthy enterprises were given quietly and not much was known about them by her colleagues. It is known, however, that for some years after the last war, when life was very difficult in Austria, she contributed to the support of the small daughter of an Austrian scientist who had long been one of her correspondents. It is only to be hoped that her services to that child, who is now a young woman in Nazi Germany, were not in vain.

Aside from her interest in her work, which took up the greater part of her time, Miss Rathbun was interested in both music and the theater. She was a familiar figure at the concerts given in Washington by the Philadelphia and Boston Orchestras until about four years ago, when her health failed to such an extent that she was no longer able to go out.

To those who knew her and worked with her, Miss Rathbun was a staunch friend, an able counselor and a willing guide. With her passing the museum and science have lost a friend whose loyalty and devotion can not soon be duplicated.

LUCILE MCCAIN

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

### RECENT DEATHS

DR. HERBERT E. HAWKES, professor of mathematics at Columbia University and dean of the college, died on May 4 at the age of seventy years.

DR. ELLWOOD B. SPEAR, since 1928 manager and director of research of the Vultex Chemical Company, previously a member of the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on May 1. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. W. H. A. LEUKEL, agronomist with the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station for the past seventeen years, died on April 27. He is known for his work on Florida grasses and crops.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### MUSEUM ATTENDANCE AND THE WAR

THE Museums Council of New York City has issued to its members a statement giving figures of attendance at the museums, botanic garden, zoological park and the New York Public Library of the city for the calendar year 1942, with comparisons for 1941. The accompanying table gives these figures and the percentages of increase and decrease of attendance for eight (out of nineteen reported on) of the more largely attended institutions. It is interesting to note that the only institutions that show increased attendance in 1942 are two private institutions that charge 25 cents admission. The semi-public institutions, supported in part from the tax budget of the city and in part from private funds, are open free to the public daily.

The report as issued attempts no explanation of the falling off of attendance, but it seems reasonable to infer that the decrease was due to one or more causes growing out of the war. The order of the Board of Education of the city prohibiting public-school classes from visiting any outside institution for instruction

for the larger part of the year would account for a part of the loss. The attendance of classes in normal times adds something, of course, to the figure of total museum attendance. The institutions in the table are arranged in the order of percentage of gain or loss of attendance.

ATTENDANCE AT NEW YORK CITY MUSEUMS, 1941 AND 1942

	Attendance 1941	Attendance 1942	Change	Per cent. of change
<i>Increase:</i>				
1. N. Y. Museum of Science and In- dustry . . . . .	360,771	414,410	53,639	+ 15
2. Museum of Mod- ern Art . . . . .	274,070	279,417	5,347	+ 2
<i>Decrease:</i>				
1. N. Y. Zoological Park . . . . .	3,320,313	2,319,052	1,001,261	- 32
2. Brooklyn Museum 3. New York Public Library . . . . .	523,856	381,772	142,084	- 27
4. American Museum of Natural His- tory . . . . .	3,331,309	2,772,419	558,890	- 17
5. Metropolitan Mu- seum of Art . . . . .	1,618,765	1,388,561	230,204	- 14
6. Brooklyn Botanic Garden . . . . .	1,028,950	896,466	123,484	- 13
	1,753,381	1,660,046	93,335	- 5