

RECENT DEATHS

DR. JAMES EWING, professor of oncology at the Cornell University Medical College and consulting pathologist at Memorial, Roosevelt and New York Hospitals, from 1913 to 1939 director of Memorial Hospital, died on May 16 at the age of seventy-six years.

EDWARD A. WHITE, professor emeritus of floriculture and ornamental horticulture at Cornell University, died on May 13 at the age of seventy years.

DR. CLARA E. SMITH, professor of mathematics at Wellesley College from 1924 until her retirement in

1934, died on May 12. She was seventy-eight years old.

DR. J. LEON LASCOFF, past president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died on May 4 at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. ALEXANDER P. ANDERSON, botanist and industrial chemist, who maintained a private laboratory at Red Wing, Minn., died on May 7 at the age of eighty years.

DR. WARRINGTON YORKE, F.R.S., Alfred Jones professor of tropical medicine in the University of Liverpool and at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine since 1929, died on April 24 at the age of sixty years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FUTURE OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

A REORGANIZATION of the British Ministry of Agriculture which would include the setting up of a statutory body, on the lines of the Forestry Commission, for food production and control, free from political controversy, is recommended, according to *The Times*, London, in a report issued by a special committee appointed by the Royal Agricultural Society of England to consider post-war policy.

The members of this committee were Sir Arthur Hazlerigg (chairman), Lord Mildmay of Flete, Lord Cranworth, Sir Merrik Burrell, Sir Roland Burke, Sir George Courthope, M.P., Sir Archibald Weigall and A. H. B. Talbot-Ponsonby. The statutory body, they suggest, should be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, who would be responsible for it to Parliament. Its main duties would be: (1) To deal with the present work of the Food Ministry; (2) to function as an Imports Board; (3) to stabilize prices and link guaranteed prices to guaranteed wages; and (4) to make sure that the land is farmed well and that the fertility of the soil is not only maintained but in many cases materially increased.

The report urges that, after a complete survey of the land, a definite acreage should be earmarked and set aside for agriculture, and that, so long as this land is so earmarked, no death duties should be levied on it. Land-owners and farmers would naturally have to submit to more control than hitherto under ordinary peace-time conditions.

The committee proposes for each county a special committee with one or more paid executive officers, who would travel round the county and report to their committee, which would deal drastically with cases of bad farming. The committees would have to be carefully chosen from the best landowning and farming interests, and there must be a right of appeal to an

impartial tribunal of experts in farming and members with some legal experience.

The change would entail the repeal of part, if not all, of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1923, and county councils would need new agricultural committees, which would still deal with small-holdings, diseases of animals and agricultural education.

In the reconstruction of the Ministry of Agriculture, provision would have to be made for a recruitment of a special branch of the Civil Service having practical experience of farming. As a first measure the committee recommends that five surveyors of food production, drawn from the ranks of those who have themselves farmed successfully, should be appointed to the staff of the ministry to be graded as first-grade civil servants commanding high salaries.

The whole basis of entry into the ministry and promotion, it is suggested, should be reorganized, and almost every entrant should undergo training to include at least one year's practical work on a farm. He should either take a degree in agriculture at a university or a two-year course at any leading agricultural college, where, after passing an examination such as for a national diploma in agriculture, he could graduate into the ministry.

NEW FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

It is announced in *Nature* that the following have been elected ordinary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Dr. A. T. Andreasen, principal of the Orissa Medical School, India; A. H. R. Ball, rector of the Royal High School, Edinburgh; J. G. Chalmers, department of chemistry, University of Edinburgh; J. B. Crawford, treasurer of the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh; Dr. R. G. M. Dakers, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; the Right Hon. William Y. Darling, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh; the Right Hon-

orable John Dewar, Baron Forteviot of Dupplin; N. Dobson, Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, Surrey; Dr. A. Dunbar, Edinburgh; Dr. H. R. Fletcher, government botanist, Edinburgh; Professor R. Fürth, Dewar research fellow, University of Edinburgh; Professor J. H. Gaddum, professor of materia medica, University of Edinburgh; Professor A. C. Hardy, regius professor of natural history, University of Aberdeen; W. B. Hislop, Edinburgh; J. D. Imrie, City Chamberlain, Edinburgh; the Right Hon. Thomas Johnston, Secretary of State for Scotland; D. K. Kevan, Secretary, Ministry of Supply (Timber Control), Edinburgh; Dr. Robert Kirk, Kitchener School of Medicine, Khartoum; C. C. Learmonth, secretary, Merchant Company, Edinburgh; Professor C. H. Lobban, professor of civil engineering, King's College, University of London; Robert Lyon, principal, Edinburgh College of Art; W. W. McClelland, executive officer to the National Committee for the Training of Teachers; G. MacKenzie, general manager, British Linen Bank, Edinburgh; Colonel G. H. G. McLean, Glasgow; Duncan Macnaughton, Edinburgh; Dr. G. C. McVittie, King's College, University of London; Dr. D. M. Morison, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh; Dr. Charles Ockrent, Glasgow; Dr. J. M. Robertson, Gardiner professor of chemistry, University of Glasgow; Dr. W. M. Smart, regius professor of astronomy, University of Glasgow; Dr. W. J. Stuart, consulting surgeon, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; J. M. Thomson, secretary, Scottish Education Department; Dr. E. Warhurst, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; Dr. T. S. Westoll, department of geology, University of Aberdeen; Dr. R. W. Wheldon, department of agriculture, University of Durham; H. H. Wood, department of English literature, University of Edinburgh.

THE FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF COPERNICUS

ADDRESSES by prominent educators, as well as a musical program, will feature exercises which the University of Pennsylvania will conduct in memory of Nicholas Copernicus, the Polish astronomer, in the Irvine Auditorium, Thirty-fourth and Spruce Streets, at 3:30 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, May 23.

The exercises, which will be open to the public, will commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Copernicus and of the publication of his epochal treatise, "*De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*." It was in this treatise that Copernicus revolutionized man's concept of his relation to the universe by first developing the theory that the earth was not the center of the universe but revolved around the sun.

Dr. Thomas S. Gates, president of the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the Copernican Quadricentennial National Committee, will preside over the ceremonies and there will be addresses by Dr. Lynn Thorndike, professor of history at Columbia University, and Dr. Charles W. David, professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Selections by the Paderewski Polish Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Walter Grigaitis, will follow each address, and members of the society in Polish costume will serve as ushers at the exercises.

The Reverend Francis Palecki, rector of St. Hedwig's Church, will give the invocation, and the Reverend J. Clemens Kolb, chaplain of the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the benediction.

The exercises at the university will form part of a nation-wide tribute to the memory of Copernicus.

In addition to President Gates, members of the Copernican Quadricentennial National Committee of the University of Pennsylvania include Dr. A. Newton Richards, vice-president of the university in charge of medical affairs, and Dr. John R. Kline, professor of mathematics and secretary of the American Mathematical Society.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM

THE reorganization of the Department of Experimental Biology of the American Museum of Natural History has been announced by the administration. The name has been changed to the Department of Animal Behavior, and the scientific staff of the department is constituted as follows: Dr. Frank A. Beach, *Chairman and Curator*; Dr. T. C. Schneirla, *Associate Curator*; Lester R. Aronson and Dr. Albert P. Blair, *Assistant Curators*; Miss A. Marie Holz, *Scientific Assistant*; Dr. Libbie H. Hyman, Dr. William Etkin and Dr. Charles M. Breder, Jr., *Research Associates*.

The twofold function of the department is defined as research in animal behavior and the planning of exhibits on the same subject. The orientation of the department's research program, involving a coalescence of field and laboratory methods of investigation, deals with general principles revealed in the behavior of various animal groups. The current investigational program includes studies on invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, birds and mammals. At present a large part of the research of the department is centered about problems of reproductive behavior, and the assistance of the Committee for Research in Problems of Sex, National Research Council, is greatly facilitating this series of studies.

Plans for exhibits designed to illustrate broad principles of animal behavior and to emphasize the evolu-