29, 1942, on a lectureship in physics. Later he was appointed visiting professor of physics. He passed away very suddenly on March 22, 1943. He fitted into the American university life and procedure astonishingly well considering his training and experience in Europe. He was very well liked by his students and associates. He was just about to publish a paper on photoconductivity of crystals. Throughout a very active life he has published some fifty or sixty papers, mainly in photoelectricity, canal- and x-rays. He will be missed very much both in teaching and research.

GEORGE WINCHESTER
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

MINNIE TAYLOR YORK

To her many friends the sudden death of Mrs. York came as a great shock. As junior pathologist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1913 to 1923 and as librarian of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History from 1924 to 1934 she had had the admiration and respect of all with whom she worked. Never willing to compromise with what was less than best, she possessed a remarkable sense of fairness in all of life's relationships. In spite of her professional duties and later her club activities and home responsibilities, she always found time for those unrequired details of kindness which bespeak a noble character. Many readers of SCIENCE knew Mrs. York as capable scientist, as gracious hostess and as friend. All such extend their sympathy to her husband and her mother.

W. G. HUTCHINSON
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HAMILTON PERKINS CADY, professor of chemistry and chairman of the department at the University of Kansas, died on May 26 at the age of sixty-eight years. He had been a member of the faculty for forty-four years.

HAZEL C. CAMERON, research associate in nutrition in the Agricultural Experiment Station of West Virginia University, died on May 6 at the age of fifty-three years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND THE WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION

AT a meeting in Detroit on April 11 of the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society, it was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the letter of April 1, 1943, from Secretary Charles S. Parsons to H. T. Briscoe, of the War Manpower Commission, be approved and the board instructed the secretary to do all in his power to put the policy into effect.

In the letter which is printed in *Chemical and Engineering News* Dr. Parsons emphasizes the fact that the society is, and always will be, ready to serve the War Manpower Commission in any way it can be useful. Its function in this effort, however, is confined to the proper assignment and utilization of chemists and chemical engineers. He continues:

> Electrical, mechanical, civil, sanitary and radio engineers, physicists, mathematicians and other groups of specialists are needed in both the combat and production armies. Except in a few specific instances, already overstaffed, chemists and chemical engineers have no utility as such in the combat forces.
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> Clearly foreseeing the situation and probable emergency, the American Chemical Society through its officially constituted defense committee met with General Hershey in December of 1940 and carefully considered the problem that faced the country. The American Chemical Society's committee on national defense consists of Roger Adams, dean of chemistry at the University of Illinois, *Chairman;* James B. Conant, president of Harvard University; Warren K. Lewis, head of the department of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Thomas Midgley, Jr., vice-president of the Ethyl Corporation and chairman of the board of directors of the American Chemical Society; Edward R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute and (at that time) chairman of the Chemicals and Allied Products Division of the War Production Board; Robert E. Wilson, president of the Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company; and myself, secretary of the society.
>
> At that and subsequent conferences a general plan of procedure was formulated in accord with the major premises already outlined and, through its publications, its national and sectional meetings and by thousands of letters and other direct communications, the American Chemical Society has done all in its power to enlighten the profession, the industry, the public and the local, appeal and state boards of the true situation and its importance to the war effort. In this campaign the society has been supported, seconded and assisted by General Hershey and his able staff. Local and appeal boards and state directors have been informed through occupational bulletins and other so-called directives that chemists and chemical engineers should be deferred where utilized in the war effort or in training others therefor. Unfortunately, Selective Service can only advise and has no authority to order. In spite of all efforts, as previously stated, approximately 5 per cent. of the chemists and chemical engineers of the country are in the Army or the Navy serving ably but not in a chemical capacity. However, it is no small accomplishment that approximately 95 per cent. of those subject to the draft are serving to-day in the Production Army. Retention of this high per-

centage is due in a large measure to the educational campaign conducted by the American Chemical Society with the active cooperation of the Selective Service System constituted by law for such purposes, as its name implies.

Having outlined the problem and recorded two and one-half years of experience, I can reply now to the questions you have propounded.

If your suggested committee is to handle and give advice regarding the classification of chemists and chemical engineers, essentially the same as the committee which has been formed to advise in cases of physicists (Local Board Release 159), the American Chemical Society is prepared to function. We can readily present to you suggestions for its make-up from among the best chemists and chemical engineers in America—men who will serve without compensation from the War Manpower Commission or from the Government.

However, if it is the War Manpower Commission's proposal to form a committee of heterogeneous "engineers" to function for all "engineers," including those specifically trained chemically, we prefer to continue to serve America and the country's qualified chemical engineers as we have been doing. We do not believe that a heterogeneous committee of electrical, mechanical, civil, radio, sanitary and other engineers can hope to envision the problems of the chemical industry or those of the chemical engineers themselves, as could a committee composed of members of the chemical profession; nor do we believe that the War Manpower Commission or Selective Service itself would have equal confidence in its findings.

THE COPERNICAN QUADRICENTENNIAL

AT the celebration in New York City on May 24 of the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Copernicus, messages were read from President Roosevelt and the President of Poland, Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz, now in London. Copernican citations were conferred upon a group of pioneers in science and civilization, nine of whom were Americans and one Chinese.

President Roosevelt's message was read by Professor Harlow Shapley. The President wrote:

Not only must great men and great nations be allowed to attain freedom. Liberty must be made progressively available to small states, to communities, and to the individual himself if humanity is to march forward into light and life. We must always remember that the creation and sweep of great liberalizing ideas may be the work of a single isolated individual, as in the case of Copernicus.

Dr. James Rowland Angell, president-emeritus of Yale University, was chairman of the committee on citations. Those honored with citations were:

Dr. John Dewey, "who has stimulated and enriched the thinking of his time in education, philosophy and in all arts of life."

Walter (Walt) Disney, "whose animated cartoons have delighted audiences the world over."

Professor Albert Einstein, "whose revolutionary concept of space, time and energy has transformed both science and philosophy."

Henry Ford, "for opening a new horizon to manufacture."

Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, of the University of California at Berkeley, "inventor and builder of the most powerful engine of transmutation of the elements."

Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, of the California Institute of Technology, "author of a revolution in our knowledge of the causes and mechanisms of inheritance."

Igore I. Sikorsky, "pioneer aeronautical engineer who has created a helicopter of revolutionary implications."

Dr. Wendell M. Stanley, of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton, N. J., "discoverer of a crystalline protein having all the characteristics of disease-producing virus, a concept revolutionary for the study and control of virus disease."

Orville Wright, "who fashioned wings for man and showed him how to navigate the ocean of the air."

Dr. James Y. C. Yen, of Chungking, who invented "a simple, easily mastered system of written Chinese whereby the book of knowledge has been opened to millions of previously illiterate minds."

PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST CHARLES L. MAYER AWARD

PRESENTATION of the first Charles L. Mayer Award of $2,000 was made to Dr. Charles Huggins at the annual dinner meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Science Fund of the National Academy of Sciences, which was given on May 19 at the University Club, New York City. Dr. William J. Robbins, chairman of the fund, presided at the dinner and, following the citation for the award made by Dr. Peyton Rous, Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the National Academy of Sciences and a director of the fund, presented the award to Dr. Huggins. The citation reads:

The work for which Dr. Huggins is to receive the first Charles L. Mayer Award makes possible the alleviation of cancer of the human prostate in a large proportion of instances, with perhaps a permanent control in some cases. But its implications are more than practical; they stress a principle which has been little regarded. In searching for means to combat cancer most workers strive to exploit the difference of tumor cells from normal ones, and sometimes with success, as in the treatment of cancers of the skin by Roentgen rays, the tumor cells succumbing to exposures which healthy elements survive. Dr. Huggins has proceeded in the diametrically opposite way; he has played upon what is normal in the malignant cells, the remaining good in them as one might say, and they have responded. This response is a fact which reveals. Hence, with your permission, I will speak briefly concerning it. And with apologies to Dr. Huggins, for there are few occasions which put a scientist more justifiably on tenterhooks than when another attempts in his presence to point to the place in nature of his discoveries.