

DR. LEONARD S. MCLAINE, Dominion entomologist and assistant director of the science service of the

Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, died on July 20 at the age of fifty-six years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### MESSAGE FROM CHINESE MEN OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

PROFESSOR TSENG CHAO-LUN, head of the department of chemistry of the National Southwest Associated University, Kunming, China, has sent the following open letter to British scientific men:

While the introduction of modern science into China dates back to eighty years ago, the real beginnings of scientific research in China came after 1919. On May 4 of that year, students in Peiping (then still called Peking) demonstrated against Japanese aggression, and from that incident was evolved the so-called "May 4th Movement," so important in the cultural as well as the political history of modern China. That movement, which quickly spread all over China, not only rallied the country to the standards of democracy but also promoted the natural sciences as factors in the modernization of China. With this impetus, scientific education and scientific research developed at a rate never dreamed of before. The progress made between 1929 and 1937 was particularly rapid, and constant encouragement was received from scientific workers in the United States and in Europe. Since the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937, scientific institutions and scientific men in China have suffered tremendously through the deliberate efforts of the Japanese to destroy Chinese culture. But here in the hinterland of Free China, Chinese men of science have been laboring hard for the last five years in the interest of China and of science.

Chinese scientific workers owe much to Great Britain for their training. For both democratic ideals and scientific accomplishment, we have always looked to Great Britain for guidance. Now, under the banner of the United Nations, Britain and China are fighting shoulder to shoulder to save democracy for the world; a new era of cooperation between the British and Chinese peoples has begun. Early this year we had the honor of welcoming a cultural mission from the British Council. One of its members is Dr. Joseph Needham, who is now doing most valuable work in our country, and who brought with him a large number of scientific books so much needed by us. Recently, Chinese science students in Britain, with the help of the British Ministry of Information, the British Broadcasting Corporation, the British Council and other organizations, have started a scheme for sending us science news, which includes a weekly broadcast summary of the principal contents of each week's issue of *Nature*; recent valuable scientific publications and microfilm copies are being sent, and scientific books are being collected with the view of establishing an adequate Science Library in China. Many British men of science are helping in these efforts. We shall never forget such things, and we hope they will develop into a bigger scheme of

<sup>1</sup> From *Nature*.

cooperation between the scientific men of Great Britain and China.

### THE AQUARIUM OF THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK, LONDON

*The Times, London, writes:*

One of the most popular pre-war attractions of the London Zoo, the aquarium, was reopened on June 11 in time for the Whitsun holidays.

It had been closed since the beginning of the war for fear of the possible consequences if a bomb should hit one of the big tanks, water from which might then have flooded the tunnels used as air-raid shelters. So the exhibits were removed, and the sea-water was emptied from the tanks into the Regent's Canal—by which it used to reach the Zoo in barges after coming from the Bay of Biscay as ballast in ships' holds. Some time later a German bomb did in fact fall through the roof of the aquarium.

In response to many inquiries by the public the fresh-water section of the aquarium has now been reconstituted, though necessarily on a more modest scale than before. The exhibition reflects much credit on the aquarium overseer, Mr. H. Vinall, who has got it together in face of many difficulties. He himself has made fishing excursions, with a drag-net, to acquire many of the British fresh-water fish now on view. Among them are trout, perch, roach, dace, bream, tench, carp and eels.

The other exhibits are survivals from the pre-war aquarium and have been stored behind the scenes in tubs and all manner of receptacles. Most are cold-water fish, but the exhibition also includes five tanks of tropical fish, kept warm by electrical elements in the water. Some of the most vivid little tropical fish have been on view for the past year in the neighboring reptile house, which provides a suitable temperature for these miniature wonders of the deep, and they will remain there.

In warm-water tanks in the aquarium are several species of cichlid and two lung-fish, one from Africa, the other from Australia. There are salamanders from China and Japan, American garfish and sunfish, the Mexican axolotl (which is capable of living on dry land) and a fine display of ornamental gold-fish. At the entrance is a large and attractive ornamental pool, inhabited by large carp and golden orfe.

### THE RESOURCES OF VIRGINIA

UNDER "Science Notes" in *The Commonwealth* Dr. Sidney S. Negus reports that a committee has been appointed by W. Catesby Jones, president of the Virginia Academy of Science, to prepare an inventory of Virginia resources, including minerals, soils, agriculture, water, forestry, water power, transportation, labor, education, manufacturing, finances, research,