cial support. His relations with his associates were most cordial, and he was always solicitous for their interests. The writer will ever hold in memory with pleasure and gratitude the encouragement, advice and cooperation which he received during the many years of their association.

HORACE C. RICHARDS

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ROBERT B. HINMAN, professor of animal husbandry at Cornell University, died in his fifty-fifth year on July 26.

EDWARD HALL BOWIE, regional director for the Pacific States of the United States Weather Bureau at San Francisco, president of the American Meteorological Society, died on June 29 at the age of sixty-nine years.

ALBERT KINGSBURY, founder and president of the Kingsbury Machine Works, Philadelphia, died on July 28 at the age of eighty years.

DR. ORVILLE HARRY BROWN, specialist in internal medicine, died on July 26 at the age of sixty-eight years. Recently he had been collaborating with Dr. John Lawrence, of the University of California at Berkeley, in experiments using cyclotrons to combat malignant growths.

THE death on July 28 at the age of sixty-one years is announced of Sir Harold Beckwith Whitehouse, gynecologist, president of the British Medical Association.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE DEATH-RATE IN GERMANY[1]

RECENTLY published statistics of mortality rates in German towns show that the health of the urban dweller has been steadily deteriorating, and this is especially marked during the later months of 1942. The following figures refer only to the large towns of "Greater Germany" with a total population of 24,500,000.

Compared with the corresponding months of 1941, infant mortality rose by 17 per cent. during the last quarter of 1942 to 69 per 1,000 live births. For the whole year the rate was 66, against 59 for 1941. This contrasts with a record low rate for England and Wales during 1942 of 49. Among children aged one to five—another sensitive index of health—the number of deaths rose sharply in 1942 to 7,236. In previous years the number had been 6,404 in 1941, 6,062 in 1940 and 5,670 in 1939.

School children aged five to 14 are also being affected, but adolescents seem to be affected more than any other group. For ages 15 to 20 a rise of 38 per cent. in 1942 was recorded over the number of deaths in 1939. The numbers were: 4,159 in 1942, 3,192 in 1941, 3,126 in 1940, and 3,023 in 1939. Contributing to these significant upward trends in mortality among children were sharp increases in the number of deaths from diphtheria and scarlet fever.

The report also shows a steeper rise in deaths from tuberculosis. There were, in German towns, nearly 5,500 more deaths from all forms of tuberculosis in 1942 than in 1939. The death-rate per 1,000 population at all ages was 24 per cent. higher in 1942 than in 1939, and the rise was more rapid in 1942 than in 1941.

The new statistics disclose a sharp rise in the number of suicides. In the last four years the numbers have been 7,647 in 1942, 6,222 in 1941, 6,104 in 1940 and 6,387 in 1939. It has been the experience of most belligerent countries in this and in past wars that the suicide rate declines during hostilities. This has happened in Britain during the present war, and in Germany the number fell in 1940. The last quarter of 1942 showed, however, a rise of 87 per cent. (to 2,538) over the number registered during the corresponding quarter of 1940 (1,358).

It does not appear that political murders or suicides in concentration camps are included in the official statistics; nor does it seem that suicides of imported workers are included.

All these death-rates for the large towns are likely to underestimate the actual rise in mortality. There are several reasons to support this view.

The evacuation of children, mothers and expectant women to rural areas might be expected to reduce the number of deaths in the towns.

As the official statistics relate only to civilian deaths, the transference of large numbers of adolescents into the armed forces would reduce the civilian population exposed to the risk of tuberculosis.

The removal of hospitals, institutions and sanatoria from the Ruhr and Rhineland towns to rural areas should reduce the number of urban deaths—unless the register of deaths is retained in the town records.

Turning from deaths to births, the latest figures show a dramatic fall in the birth-rate. For the large towns of Germany the number of births in 1942 declined by 80,000 from the figure of 419,000 for 1940. The rate per 1,000 total population was down to 13.9 in 1942 compared with 17.3 in 1940.

The last quarter of 1942 recorded a rate as low as 12.7. This experience for German towns is borne out

[1] From *The Times*, London.

by the rate for all areas of Greater Germany, which had declined from 20.4 in 1939–40 to 15.2 in 1942—a loss of approximately 550,000 live births.

UNITED STATES LECTURERS IN BRAZIL

ADVANCED practices in the application of the science of metallurgy in the United States will be made available to Brazilian scientists and industrialists during the coming year through a technical educational project established at the Escola Politecnica of the University of São Paulo, one of the leading engineering schools of Brazil. Four distinguished United States scientific men have been appointed to give lectures on fundamental metallurgy over a period of a year, each to remain in residence there for three months during the extent of his lecture series. The project is being jointly financed through the office of Nelson A. Rockefeller, coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the Escola Politecnica. It is administered by the Stevens Institute of Technology under a contract with the coordinator's office.

The first lecturer, Dr. A. Allan Bates, manager of the chemical and metallurgical department of the Research Laboratories of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, East Pittsburgh, Pa., is already *en route* to Brazil and was expected to be at the University of São Paulo by July 29.

He will be followed by Dr. Robert F. Mehl, professor and head of the department of metallurgical engineering and director of the Metals Research Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh; Professor Arthur Phillips, of the Hammond Metallurgical Laboratory, Yale University, and Professor Gregory Jamieson Comstock, director of the powder metallurgy laboratory of the Stevens Institute of Technology.

Laboratory facilities for metallurgical work are available at the Instituto de Pesquisas Tecnologicas, which is connected with the Escola Politecnica. Modern research and production equipment is provided by electric arc melting furnaces, induction furnace, small rolling mill, cupola furnace and complete microscopic and metallographic apparatus. It is the desire of the Escola Politecnica to inaugurate a complete series of courses in fundamental and advanced metallurgy.

The project was initiated when the Brazilian institution asked the help of the coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in obtaining the teaching services of four professors of metallurgy. The coordinator's office solicited the advice and counsel of the engineering division of the Board of Economic Warfare, now the Office of Economic Warfare.

The problem was assigned to Professor Comstock, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, who is a technical consultant for the division and who suggested the plan which was adopted. The institute accepted the responsibility for administering and supervising the program. The lecturers were appointed by the trustees with the consent and cooperation of their own institutions or industrial employers.

The subject to be taught, fundamental metallurgy on a graduate level, will be presented in four divisions by the lecturers, each of whom is regarded as preeminent in his particular field. Dr. Bates will lecture from the viewpoint of industrial research and development; Dr. Mehl on the physical metallurgy of iron and steel; Professor Phillips on non-ferrous metallurgy, and Professor Comstock on powder metallurgy. They also will assist the university authorities to develop a curriculum in metallurgical engineering.

THE PROPOSED OCEANARIUM AT CONEY ISLAND

TENTATIVE plans for the proposed post-war Aquarium or Oceanarium to be built at Coney Island at an estimated cost of $1,500,000 are described in *The New York Times*. It will take the place of the old Aquarium at Battery Park, and will extend nearly ten acres between the Boardwalk and Surf Avenue, from West Fifth to West Eighth Streets. The site is virtually already owned by the city.

The Times states that in addition to a modern main marine building housing fresh and salt-water species from every part of the globe and outdoor pools for seals, penguins and cormorants, it is planned to construct a children's aquarium. As shown in a tentative sketch, this will be a building resembling an old schooner, anchored in a pond off the main building.

Observation cat-walks will be constructed around the huge tanks and through them. In the latter the observer would find himself literally "inside" the tank, encased in a glass passageway with water under, around and above him.

There will be, according to present plans, exhibits of tropical, temperate, Arctic and biological specimens, a separate section for aquatic birds and waterfowl, a promenade deck, lecture hall and restaurants. An over-pass will lead directly to a special subway entrance and a parking lot will be constructed to accommodate 450 automobiles.

The Finance Committee of the City Council has unanimously approved an amendment to the capital budget for 1943 to include the sum of $42,000 for preliminary plans and study of the oceanarium. It is expected that the New York Zoological Society will contribute an additional $20,000 toward the cost of preliminary planning.