

The expansion of the society's library from 80,000 volumes in 1925 to nearly 120,000 in the present year provides an impressive measure of Miss Platt's mounting responsibilities. More than this, the collections were carefully listed and organized into the cognate fields provided for in the Research Catalogue, which was established in 1923 and improved and extended under Miss Platt's direction. Consultants seeking aid beyond that offered by the Research Catalogue would find Miss Platt a ready and reliable source of suggestion and advice. Her ability in assembling materials on the comprehensive problems often confronting geographical investigators is well remembered by the many, from this country and abroad, who have studied in the society's library. Warm acknowledgments to the librarian's unstinted aid appear in the prefaces and footnotes of numerous volumes.

During the past decade, Miss Platt's services to research workers extended far beyond the confines of the library. *Current Geographical Publications*, issued monthly except during the summer, was launched in 1938 entirely as a result of her enterprise and industry. True to its title, this bibliography lists significant literature—the word is used in the broad sense—under the categories of the Research Catalogue. Valued by investigators in geography and allied fields, *Current Geographical Publications* is now the only publication of its kind in existence. In addition, Miss Platt prepared the society's annual contributions to *Bibliographie Géographique Internationale* from 1923 to its suspension of publication after 1938. The material included in the *Bibliographie* embraced all geographical works published in the United States, covering the field of geography as a whole, and the geography of Latin America, and its preparation involved a large amount of collation and editing during two or three months each year. Only a small group of colleagues knew of Miss Platt's contributions to the distinguished French bibliography; fewer still are aware that many unsigned notes and reviews in the *Geographical Review* and the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* were likewise hers. She was a member of the advisory group which helped found *Social Science Abstracts*, and was a regular contributor to the *American Year Book*. She also founded and assembled an extensive photographic collection.

In keeping with Elizabeth Platt's interests and skills were two other tasks of a high order—one unfinished, the other completed just before her death. Since about the year 1930, she had been systematically accumulating references to geographical and cartographic bibliographies, an extensive compilation which was to have been used this summer, in collabo-

ration with Dr. Wright, in preparing a new edition of "Aids to Geographical Research," originally issued by the society in 1923. It is encouraging to learn that this revision will be carried through by its senior author and that, in its new and enlarged form, an additional monument to Miss Platt's work will be available. During the closing year of her life, Miss Platt edited "Mirror for Americans: Likeness of the Eastern Seaboard, 1810," forming Special Publication 27 of the society. This volume, involving the use of sources to a new purpose, presented an editorial challenge to one versed, as was Miss Platt, in the handling and interpretation of geographical and near-geographical literature. The editorial work was performed with enthusiasm and devotion to the difficult task at hand. The memorialist, who is also the author of the book, may be permitted to record that Miss Platt prepared the citations in the bibliography and that a large proportion of the notes, occupying nearly forty closely printed pages, received the benefit of her expert knowledge. The format, typography and many of the illustrations were suggested by her, and throughout are numerous evidences of her good taste and discrimination and of her love of books. It is a matter of deep regret that, so closely did Miss Platt's death follow the appearance of the printed volume, she was unable to see the results.

Miss Platt was a member of many societies representing the two fields of her chief intellectual interests, bibliography and geography, and enjoyed the distinction of being a representative to the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council. She was a member of the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the Bibliographical Society of America, the New York Library Club; and at one time served as treasurer of the New York Group of the Society of Woman Geographers. She was elected this year to the Association of American Geographers one of whose members, upon learning of her unexpected death, framed the combined sentiment in saying, "We could not afford to lose her."

RALPH H. BROWN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. FREDERICK J. TAUSSIG, professor of clinical obstetrics at Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, died on August 21 in his seventy-first year.

PHILIP N. MOULTHROP, assistant in charge of mammalogy at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, died on August 21 at the age of thirty-one years.