

Century Club of Brooklyn. An active member of the International Flower Show Committee, he served also on several committees of the National Research Council. He was vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Horticultural Society of New York for many years, and for eight years a trustee of Adelphi College. He was a director of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research and of the New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions. In 1941 he received the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticultural Award.

Few men have been able to combine, as Dr. Gager did, horticulture and botany, education and research, the applied and the scientific, civic interests and professional duties. A man of the highest ideals, Dr. Gager did not hesitate to oppose attitudes, ideas or trends which he considered unwise or ill considered or to correct errors in fact or statement in the fields with which he was familiar. Yet no worthy project related to his fields of interest failed to receive quick and generous support. His career illustrates how much can be done by a man of ability who devotes himself consistently and conscientiously to a subject he considers worthy of his utmost effort.

WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

#### DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ALEŠ HRDLÍČKA, since 1910 curator of the Division of Physical Anthropology of the U. S. National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, of which he had been in charge since 1903, died on September 5 at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. H. JUSTIN RODDY, formerly curator and professor of geology at Franklin and Marshall College, died on September 4 at the age of eighty-seven years.

Dr. Roddy joined the faculty of Franklin and Marshall College in 1922. He had previously been a member of the faculty of the Millersville State Teachers College.

DR. ARTHUR PEHR ROBERT WADLUND, professor of physics at Trinity College, Connecticut, died on September 1 at the age of forty-seven years.

DR. THOMAS GILBERT PEARSON, president emeritus of the National Association of Audubon Societies, died on September 3 at the age of sixty-nine years. He resigned from the presidency of the association in 1934, after serving for fourteen years. He had previously been secretary and executive officer of the society.

JOHN K. GORE, mathematician, until 1934 president of the Prudential Insurance Company, died on June 22, at the age of seventy-nine years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Willem A. J. M. Van Waterschoot van der Gracht, formerly inspector general of state mines in the Netherlands, who had been connected with ore and petroleum companies in the United States and Canada.

THE life and work of Alexander Wilson, author of the first American ornithology, will be the subject of the October number of *Frontiers*, the magazine of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. On the evening of October 20, Dr. Cornelius Weygandt will address members of the academy and guests on the place of Wilson in American life, science and art. On account of limited editions imposed by the war, those wishing to have the special Wilson number of *Frontiers*, which will appear on September 15, should apply at once.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN

IN the British House of Lords on July 20 there was a continuation of the debate on a motion by Viscount Samuel calling attention to the need for the further expansion of scientific research. Lord Dawson pointed out that "It was difficult to overstress the importance where science was concerned—and this applied equally to medicine—of preventing the enmeshment of any research body in the close entanglement of a Government department. One of the chief reasons why these research bodies should receive further support was that they succeeded in combining good order in the work of men of ability with freedom for scientific investigation."

Lord Cherwell said in part "that the importance, from the economic point of view, of fostering pure fundamental research could not be overlooked.

The Government recognized that pure research must be, in a large measure, its responsibility and must be done at the universities; but naturally, they also wished to encourage industry to spend money on pure research. It was the Government's policy and intention to increase its aid for research, and it would welcome any developments of industry in a similar direction. The treatment of scientists in the Civil Service had been mentioned, and he frankly admitted that the Civil Service had not hitherto shown due regard for the contribution scientists were making to the nation's welfare. This matter had now been reviewed, and an investigation had been in progress to make sure that the conditions of service, pay and prospects of Government scientific employees compared favorably with those on the administrative side. He hoped that a definite announcement on these reforms might be made before long. There were probably not more than a few dozen physicists in Great Britain capable of evolving and developing new applications of, say, the various radio