

branches of medical knowledge, more widely versed in the affairs of man or more interested in the human being than Dr. Barker.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ROSCOE RAYMOND HYDE, professor of immunology and director of the laboratories of immunology and filterable viruses of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, died on September 15 at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. BERT CUNNINGHAM, professor of biology at Duke University, died on September 27 at the age of sixty years.

DR. J. WILLARD HERSHEY, head of the department

of chemistry of McPherson College, Kansas, known for his work on rare gases, died on September 27 at the age of sixty-seven years.

STEWART H. BURNHAM, who retired recently after serving for more than twenty years as assistant curator of the herbarium of the department of botany of Cornell University, died on September 25. He was seventy-two years old.

DR. ARTHUR A. TICKNOR, divisional chemist for the Calco Chemical Company of Bound Brook, N. J., a subsidiary of the American Cyanamid Company, died by suicide on September 26. He was fifty years old.

DR. GEORGE BACHARACH, assistant professor of chemistry at Brooklyn College, died on September 20, at the age of fifty-five years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE Select Committee on British National Expenditure, in a report on Aircraft Production issued recently, states, according to *The Times*, London, that the aeronautical industry in Britain is suffering from an acute shortage of scientific and technical men. It is stated that there are not enough adequately qualified men available to maintain the industry at the proper level of efficiency. This shortage applies also in the whole field of aeronautical research, including the official establishments, and it is said to have been clear for some time that there is more work than can be done by the existing personnel. The report continues:

Special measures are therefore necessary. Men of high academic, scientific or technical attainments should not be allowed to be absorbed in the fighting services, where, even when they are employed in technical jobs, their qualifications are often much higher than is needed. More pre- and post-graduate courses in aeronautics are needed at the universities, especially in view of the fact that facilities for training which were available in the industry in peace-time are now used for training R.A.F. personnel. The committee recommends that the appropriate departments should investigate the facilities available for training research workers, aeronautical engineers and other technicians in order to determine what action is necessary to meet requirements.

There is a similar shortage of adequately qualified staffs in all grades of management. The enormous expansion of the industry has entailed the up-grading of large numbers of men with relatively little experience, and it is freely admitted by managements that they have had to promote many men whom they would not normally so promote. Little appears to have been done to remedy the deficiency. In the case of foremen the

situation has been worsened by the fact that there is frequently reluctance to accept promotion. In a few cases, the existence of high piece-rate earnings may partly explain this reluctance, but the more general reason is undoubtedly simple unwillingness to accept responsibility. This is not unnatural when it is remembered that relatively few workmen are of long standing in this industry. To remedy these deficiencies the committee recommends that courses should be provided to train foremen for higher grades, and that more use should be made in the Ministry of Labor's courses in foremanship.

The report points out that one of the most disturbing features in regard to the supply of labor for the industry is the high rate of wastage. In the present general shortage of labor it is necessary for firms to engage persons who for one reason or another are not ideally suited for the work. The committee considers that the rate of wastage disclosed is greater than it should be, and that action should be taken by the Ministries of Labor and Aircraft Production to reduce it.

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE University of Oxford is planning the establishment of a department for ophthalmological research, the activities of which would include research, teaching and the treatment of patients. The Ophthalmological Research Endowment Committee is asking for help in raising £250,000 to build, equip and endow the research laboratories of a department of ophthalmology at the university. Contributions received during the war will be invested in Government securities. The treasurer of the Ophthalmological Research Endowment Fund, Old Clarendon Building, Oxford, will receive contributions. Expenses of the appeal