

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

WARFIELD T. LONGCOPE

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

are being met by the generosity of the National Institute for the Blind. *The Times*, London, reports that

The facilities available for such work are considered wholly inadequate, and the university is appealing for funds towards the establishment of research premises in connection with the Oxford Eye Hospital, the rebuilding of which will be begun at the end of the war; the provision of salaries for full-time and part-time research workers, teachers and technicians engaged in the new department; and the defraying of the working costs of researches which would have for their aim the prevention of blindness, the improved treatment of eye disease and the promotion of a higher standard of visual function throughout the country.

Under the proposed regional scheme of the Joint Hospitals Board, the Oxford Eye Hospital will become the chief regional center (covering the counties of Oxford, Buckingham and Berkshire) for ophthalmological work and teaching. For this the present hospital is inadequate, and is to be rebuilt, the necessary funds being raised by a separate appeal from local sources.

One of the problems which the proposed department at Oxford would examine would be that of discovering the safest anti-bacterial drugs for ophthalmological purposes. The extreme delicacy of the eye is the governing consideration, as all the usual antiseptics are poisons, and further investigation will need contributions not only from ophthalmology, but bacteriology, mycology and chemistry. The most promising substance found so far is penicillin, the development of which is largely the result of work done in an Oxford laboratory.

The Oxford scheme, which will be generally welcomed, will form an important contribution towards the great national effort that is being made to abate the toll and suffering and economic wastage due to loss of sight and defective vision. Statistics prove that, while failure of vision is a hazard common to all, the risk falls increasingly on those who are in middle and later life. In 1941 out of a total blind population of 74,000 in England and Wales, 63,000 were persons over 40 years old.

REHABILITATION CLINICS AT THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

A PSYCHIATRIC rehabilitation program which it is hoped may point the way toward reclamation of the estimated 80,000 New York City men thus far rejected or discharged from military service because of mental illness has been initiated by the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic of the New York Hospital.

Recognizing that the thousands of men who have proved unsuitable material for the Army, Navy and other services because of psychoneurosis constitute a wartime emergency problem that will exist and grow, even after the war, the hospital has established a special out-patient clinic that is already functioning and the full resources of the clinic will be devoted to patients' rehabilitation. The integration of psy-

chiatric treatment with the psychological testing, retraining and employment resources of an actual community is to be emphasized in the program.

Originators of the plan are Dr. Thomas A. C. Rennie, attending psychiatrist at the clinic and associate professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College, who will direct the program, and Mrs. Melly Simon, chief of psychiatric social service. Dr. Rennie was recently named director of the Division of Rehabilitation of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. Basic funds to start the clinic have been granted by the Commonwealth Fund.

The clinic is staffed by New York Hospital psychiatrists, psychoanalysts and social workers, all of whom are serving on a voluntary basis, and it is expected that by mid-October fifteen or more such volunteer psychiatrists will be actively at work. In addition to the New York Hospital volunteer staff, other psychiatrists in the city have signified their willingness to participate in the same kind of project.

Among social service agencies having evidenced their interest and willingness to cooperate with the program are the New York City Committee on Mental Hygiene, the National Committee on Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Board, the U. S. Employment Service, the Vocational Adjustment Bureau, the American Rehabilitation Committee, the Community Service Society and the Y.M.C.A. Arrangements have also been made for the referral of cases to the clinic by the State Selective Service Board.

According to Dr. Rennie, the clinic will fulfil two main functions: one, as an actual treatment center for men in need of rehabilitation and, two, as a fact-finding agency to determine the extent of the problem, the amount of help necessary for rehabilitation, the nature of psychiatric disabilities and what percentage of the patients treated may eventually be re-employed.

NEW FLORAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN AND THE UTAH STATE COLLEGE

BETWEEN the State Agricultural College of Utah and the New York Botanical Garden an agreement was signed in July by which the two institutions will cooperate in the field work for and the preparation and publishing of two important floras: (1) A Manual for the State of Utah and (2) A Flora (illustrated) of the Intermountain Region.

Both of these projects had been started by Dr. Bassett Maguire during the years he spent at the State College in Utah. Now, as curator at the New York Botanical Garden, he will be enabled to continue his work of collecting and writing on the plants of these regions, while his successor in Utah, Professor A. H. Holmgren, will aid in the work. Three more summers of exploration are planned: 1944 to complete the work