

OBITUARY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. DAVID H. NEWLAND, state geologist of New York, who retired three years ago, died on October 18 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. THEODORE DILLER, psychiatrist for the Altoona, Pa., Army Induction Center, died on October 6 at the age of eighty years.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Lieutenant Rolland F. Lang, of the civil engineering staff of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Houghton, was killed in action somewhere in the Southwest Pacific on October 7, a few days after his twenty-ninth birthday and fourteen months after he had been called to active duty as a reserve officer. Lieutenant Lang joined the faculty of the Michigan college three years ago. A graduate of South Dakota State College, he

had taught at his alma mater for two years. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Road Builders' Association, Scabbard and Blade, Blue Key, Delta Pi Chi Engineering Society and Kappa Delta Psi social fraternity. Both as a teacher and as a practising engineer, he was a young man of great promise; as an officer in the Army of the United States he had proved himself able and courageous."

THE Alumnae Association of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania announces the publication of a series of addresses delivered at a service in memory of the late Dr. Martha Tracy, dean of the college from 1918 to 1940. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Alumnae Office at the Woman's Medical College. Proceeds of the sale will be placed in the Tracy Memorial Fund.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE POINT SYSTEM OF RATIONING¹

WITH the inauguration of a point system of rationing on March 1, 1943, the Office of Price Administration became the administrative agency; and the public's traditional peacetime latitude of dietary choice, limited only by ability to pay, was abruptly curtailed. As point rationing was extended to include a broad range of meats, fats and processed foods, it became evident that certain institutions and certain groups of the population would, because of special dietary needs, require special consideration. Prominent among these were hospitals and those sick individuals whose illness demands rationed foods in amounts greater than that provided by their "points." On the Food Distribution Administration of the Department of Agriculture developed responsibility for the equitable distribution of food and therefore responsibility for assuring the needs of the sick and of institutions caring for the sick.

Furthermore, it was recognized that in recent years great advances have been made in the understanding of the vital role that dietary components play in the body economy under conditions of health, stress, disease and convalescence. The role of these components can be evaluated with increasing precision in the light of modern nutritional research. Therefore in April, 1943, at the request of Roy Hendrickson, director of the War Food Administration, Dr. Ross G. Harrison, chairman of the National Research Council, appointed a group of nationally known physicians to advise the

War Food Administration concerning the extent of these special needs and the best method of meeting them.

Within the Division of Medical Sciences of the council this group was organized as the Subcommittee on Medical Food Requirements under the general jurisdiction of the Committee on Drugs and Medical Supplies, of which Dr. Walter W. Palmer, of Columbia University, is chairman. The subcommittee was composed of physicians representing various fields of medicine and consisted of Dr. William Stroud, Philadelphia, *chairman*; Dr. Cecil Striker, Cincinnati; Dr. Alton Ochsner, New Orleans; Dr. C. W. Munger, New York; Dr. Clark Finnerud, Chicago; Dr. Gilbert Levy, Memphis, and Dr. Walter W. Palmer (*ex officio*), New York. A first meeting was held in Washington on April 30 and May 1 at which the broad outlines of the problems involved were reviewed and discussed. At this and at subsequent meetings, representatives of the Civilian Food Requirements Branch, War Food Administration, and of the Food Rationing Division, Office of Price Administration, were present to acquaint the subcommittee with administrative aspects of the rationing program. Other committees of the National Research Council were called in consultation, notably the Committee on Surgery and the Subcommittee on Tuberculosis. The opinions of individual specialists in certain fields of medicine were solicited. Finally all recommendations of the subcommittee were reviewed and approved by the parent Committee on Drugs and Medical Supplies before transmission to the War Food Administration.

¹ The *Journal* of the American Medical Association.