didactic skill and scientific interest. Osgood undertook to improve this situation. His teaching, whether of freshmen or graduates, was careful, clear and conscientious. He introduced a standard of rigor in Harvard mathematics which had been quite absent before. Many students received from him standards of absolute exactness and scientific honesty which lasted them through life. He wrote four text-books which were admirable for clearness and care. He never forgot the importance of linking up mathematics with physics. It is fair to say that to him this meant the application of classical mathematics to classical physical questions, rather than adapting new mathematical techniques to new physical demands.

Osgood pursued a life of scientific activity without haste and without rest. After his retirement from Harvard he spent two interesting years at the National University in Peiping, publishing two books, in English, which supplemented some of his earlier work.

He had returned from Germany at a critical moment when a number of young Americans, with training and ideals like his own, were determined to raise American mathematics to the standard of the subject in Europe. This was done partly by individual contributions, partly by founding and fostering the American Mathematical Society. Osgood was the eighth president. The essential quality of his own mathematical contributions, some seventy in number, was soundness. Whatever he wrote was rigorous and significant. He had a clear idea of what he believed to be of permanent importance in mathematical science, and that alone claimed his interest. He had no interest in the flashy or trivial. He was suspicious of devices which seemed too ingenious, fearing hidden difficulties. When a young man of thirty-two, he was invited to contribute one of the most important articles to the universal mathematical bible, the *Encyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften.* His *Lehrbuch der Funktionentheorie,* which ran into no less than five editions, is the classical treatise on this fundamental subject. There was perhaps little change either in his scientific thinking or technique during the course of his career. In Germany he had such a large vision of the sort of work he would like to do, that its accomplishment and natural extensions sufficed for the whole of his productive life.

Osgood had two compelling loyalties, to mathematical science and to Harvard University. Utterly lacking in personal ambition, he had the highest hopes for the Harvard mathematical school. He took little share in the wider parts of university administration, but was characteristically conscientious in performing specific tasks, however monotonous. He was unwearied in his acts of kindness to individual students, and he treated all with an old-fashioned courtesy which sprang from his deep love for his fellow man.

JULIAN L. COOLIDGE
GEORGE D. BIRKHOFF
EDWIN C. KEMBLE

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILMON NEWELL died on October 26. Since 1915 he had been provost for agriculture at the University of Florida and a leader in the agricultural development of the state. He was appointed in 1920 dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service.

DR. THOMAS ANDREW STOREY, formerly director of the School of Hygiene at Stanford University, died on October 27 at the age of sixty-eight years.

PAUL BLAKESLEE MANN, who retired in 1941 as supervisor of science in the senior high schools of the New York City public school system after a career of forty years in teaching, died on October 22 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ELLIOTT SMITH, director of the Observatory of the University of Cincinnati, died by suicide on September 29. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. WILLIAM WALDO BLACKMAN, professor emeritus of anatomy at the Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals of the New York Medical College, died on October 20 at the age of eighty-seven years.

THE Senate adopted on October 21 a resolution designating February 11, 1944, as Thomas Alva Edison Day. Under the resolution, which must have House approval, the President would be requested to issue a proclamation directing display of the flag on all Government buildings and inviting appropriate ceremonies in schools and churches or other suitable places.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLIGHT OF A HEAVIER-THAN-AIR MACHINE

GOVERNOR J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, of North Carolina, has issued the following proclamation:

Forty years ago, amidst the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, two brothers, then obscure but since made famous, began experiments for the purpose of testing and confirming their conviction that machines heavier than air could be made to fly. In this seemingly fantastic endeavor, which was met with scepticism and even ridicule, they devoted many long hours and days of effort, experiment and frustration. Ultimately their efforts were crowned with success, and on December 17, 1903, the world was electrified at the announcement that for the

first time in history a heavier-than-air machine had on that day been successfully flown at Kitty Hawk. Thus the airplane was born. Its creators were the immortal Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville: and its place of birth was Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The fortieth anniversary of this epochal event, December 17, 1943, will come in the midst of the greatest war in history—a war in which the airplane will be the decisive implement of victory for democracy, decency and righteousness in the epochal struggle against aggression, brutality and slavery.

Before this global war and its tragic consequences had thrown a shadow over the face of the earth, the airplane was already revolutionizing the transportation and communications of the world. This swift messenger of peace and friendliness as between nations, this harbinger of a new world of trade and good will, had already served to bring the world closer together. In the miracle of this winged swiftness the farthest nations of the earth had been brought closer together in understanding and in commercial relationship. After the carnage of war is over and when victory is crowned, the airplane, immeasurably stimulated in its production and perfection, will prove the indispensable agency for rebuilding a disordered and mutilated world.

Under these circumstances, it is altogether fitting that the anniversary date of this world-changing event should be appropriately observed at the place of its occurrence.

Now, therefore, I, J. Melville Broughton, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby designate Friday, December 17, 1943, as Kitty Hawk Day, and do hereby call upon all citizens of North Carolina, and in so far as I may be privileged to do so all citizens of an America grateful for the achievement of the Wright brothers, to give suitable observance to this deeply significant event, and further do call upon all who are vitally connected with the airplane industry in America and upon representatives of the Army and Navy and governmental agencies to designate and delegate official representatives to attend a suitable observance of this event which will be held at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1943, when and where appropriate tribute can be paid to the memory of Wilbur Wright, now deceased, and to Orville Wright, the surviving member of this world-famous partnership endeavor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina to be affixed at Raleigh, the Capital, this the sixth day of October A.D. 1943.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON,
Governor

PREFERENCE RATINGS FOR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

THE Safety and Technical Equipment Division has issued the following explanatory statement (see SCIENCE, October 22, page 358) on preference ratings for laboratory equipment of all kinds.

Blanket MRO ratings, that is, ratings which are assigned without specifying the kind and quantity of material to which the rating is applied, may not be used for laboratory equipment, according to the provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 3. This restriction applies only to finished products and not to parts and materials for repair and maintenance of existing equipment. Such parts and materials may be purchased with blanket MRO ratings.

An exception to the rule against the use of blanket ratings is that ratings assigned under Orders P-43, P-56, P-58, P-68, P-73, P-89 and P-98b may be used for laboratory equipment even though they are blanket ratings. Blanket ratings assigned by CMP Regulation 5 and 5A may not be used, however.

Persons who need ratings and are not operating under one of these "P" orders should file PD 1A applications. However, where the purchase covers items on List A of Order L-144, the rating assigned in the authorized Form WPB 1414 may be used.

In reference to Order L-144 the division pointed out that the prospective purchaser should notify his supplier when he receives WPB authorization on Form WPB 1414 and should apply the authorized preference rating. Notification should be given by sending the supplier the certification described in paragraph (d)(2) of L-144 and the authorization should be retained by the purchaser.

A SURVEY OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE contributes to *The New York Times* an account of a survey of seventy-two leading American medical colleges which shows that "the severe reduction in teaching staffs and the accelerated program" have resulted in a lowering of standards in a fourth of the colleges and threaten "a serious situation in medical education."

A report on the survey, made by the executive council of the Association of American Medical Colleges, was read at Cleveland at the annual meeting of the association by Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Columbia University, chairman of the council.

Dr. Rappleye stated that "Many schools report that about a third of their most active and able teachers have gone into service. Upon those remaining have fallen the tasks of carrying the instructional load and the care of patients in the wards of the teaching hospitals which in a normal academic year would be a heavy burden. But the accelerated program which requires instruction throughout the calendar year places a demand upon the staffs still in the schools which can be met only for a limited time."

According to Mr. Lawrence, nineteen of the schools reported that their staffs were now below the number necessary to provide reasonably satisfactory instruction and are greatly overworked. Many of the other