

director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service from 1921 to date, dean of the College of Agriculture from 1921 to 1938 and provost for agriculture since 1938.

MEMORIAL exercises in honor of the late Dr. Frank Schlesinger, professor of astronomy and director of Yale University Observatory, emeritus, who died on July 10, will be held in Stratheona Hall, Yale University, on Friday, November 19, at 4:30 P.M. The

speakers will be Dr. James Rowland Angell, president emeritus of Yale University, and Professor Henry Norris Russell, of Princeton University. President Charles Seymour, of Yale University, will preside.

A PERMANENT memorial to William Beaumont, known as the founder of our modern knowledge of the physiology of the stomach, has been assured by the transfer of the historical "Early House" on Mackinac Island to public ownership.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### GIFTS TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND

AN immediate gift of £100,000 for the endowment of the department of pathology and the institution of a chair of human and comparative pathology to the Royal College of Surgeons of England by W. H. Collins, of Buckinghamshire, is reported in *The Times*, London.

Mr. Collins has also informed the college that he has made provision in his will for a bequest of a further £100,000 for the endowment of the department of anatomy and the institution of a chair of human and comparative anatomy.

Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, who presided at a meeting of the council of the college, when the gifts were announced on October 14, read a letter from Mr. Collins, in which he said:

Throughout my career I have realized how essential is the study and investigation of basic problems. Success of armies in the field is dependent on careful planning and preparation at headquarters, and victories in the war against disease can only be achieved by due application and increased knowledge of the fundamental medical sciences.

I have been greatly impressed with the value of the departments of anatomy and pathology, which have made the Royal College of Surgeons of England famous all over the world. I have seen what grievous injury your departments have suffered as the result of enemy action, and appreciate what a gigantic task it will be to restore them to their unique position in the scientific world. To embark upon this task it is essential that the departments shall have an assured income from endowments. . . . I trust that my gifts will enable the council to proceed with confidence with their responsible task and to engage the services of men of outstanding ability to assist them in their labors.

It is recalled in *The Times* that the Royal College of Surgeons was badly damaged in the air raids in 1941 and that most of the Hunterian collection was lost when the museum of the college, situated in Lincoln's Inn Fields, was wrecked by a high-explosive

bomb. The museum was unique and the Hunterian collection was the proudest possession of the college.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF CHEMISTS

THE Committee on the Professional Training of Chemists, according to *Chemical and Engineering News*, has had inquiries as to the minimum time required for a student in chemistry to complete his professional training in an accelerated program—especially as to whether it would be possible to complete the requirements of the society in two calendar years. The maximum time now allowed by Selective Service for deferment of students of chemistry and of other fields of technology is twenty-four months. It is the opinion of the committee that the present requirements can not be met in less than two and two-thirds calendar years, which would include eight semesters in an accelerated tri-semester schedule.

At present freshman and sophomore students become eighteen years of age before they are within twenty-four months of graduation and can not be deferred. The stream of technical students is therefore drying up at the source. Already the enrolment is down to about one third of normal. Unless some provision is made for a longer period of deferment for chemists and engineers, within one or two more years there will be no fully trained graduates in these technical fields.

It is further the opinion of the committee that students who take the Army specialist training courses in chemical engineering or other essential fields should return to college later to complete the standard requirements in order to prepare themselves to be permanently useful in industry or to go on in advanced training.

W. A. NOYES, JR., *Chairman*  
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