and felt strongly the responsibility of the psychologist and geneticist in this respect. Her home was a center for thoughtful and constructive discussion of social issues by her scientific friends. She spent a vast amount of time and energy as chairman of the Committee on Aiding Displaced Foreign Psychologists of the American Psychological Association, and through her efforts many exiled scholars were placed in academic positions. She served also as editor of the *Bulletin* of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. She was an astute critic of scientific and social literature, and her lively book reviews were a constant source of enjoyment to her readers.

The pioneering work of Dr. Burks in demonstrating the relation between genetic characters and psychological traits, and in the application of advanced mathematical method to the analysis of psychological data established her as a scientist of high caliber, whose future contributions to her field of research were certain to be of great value had her life not ended so soon. To her colleagues and friends, her contagious enthusiasm for scientific investigation, her refreshing open-mindedness to the ideas of others, her genuine interest in those around her and the warmth of her friendship are irreplaceable.

KATHERINE S. BREHME

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FREDERICK JOSEPH TAUSSIG

THE sudden death from pneumonia of Dr. Frederick J. Taussig on August 21, 1943, was felt in a keenly personal way by many people in different walks of life. They could scarcely believe the news because he had so recently, and in such high spirits, left for a well-earned vacation at Bar Harbor. Now it is realized, as never before, how much he has been giving to St. Louis and to the nation in kindly, unobstrusive but very direct ways.

Not only has he ushered into the world two generations of St. Louisans (1902–43), but these fortunate ones and their parents have enjoyed the feeling that he was their friend, always interested in them and ready to help whenever the occasion offered.

In Washington University School of Medicine, from which he graduated, in 1898, class after class of students has profited by his teaching for well over 30 years. Through these enthusiastic disciples his influence for good has spread far and wide.

A frequently mentioned characteristic of Dr. Taussig was his boundless energy. Teaching, and a large practice, of the kind in which he was called into service at all hours of the day and night, he took in his stride, ever cheerful, never apparently unduly hurried.

By some miracle, he also found time to direct the medical activities of two great institutions, the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital in St. Louis and the State Cancer Hospital at Columbia. His directness, understanding of human nature and sense of humor made an almost unbeatable combination.

Numerous publications bear witness to his wisdom and industry, of which, perhaps, the most significant is his book, "Abortion, Spontaneous and Induced, Medical and Social Aspects," a classic recognized everywhere by medical men and sociologists alike.

Dr. Taussig communicated his zeal for research to others. An effective way promptly to bring a conference with most scientists to a close is to speak about one's own work, not theirs. Not so with him. He was always interested in every serious effort to advance knowledge. The secret of the marvelous manner in which Dr. Taussig remained so characteristically young to the last may have been his quick forgetfulness of self and the resolute way in which he looked ever to the future.

E. V. COWDRY

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

RECENT DEATHS

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Professor Oscar M. Morris, professor of horticulture and horticulturist in the Agricultural Experiment Stations of the State College of Washington, recognized as a national authority in the field of pomology, died at his desk on November 13 at the age of sixty-nine years. He joined the staff of the State College of Washington in 1910, and was head of the department of horticulture from 1911 to 1927. He began collegiate teaching on the staff of his alma mater, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, in 1898, and was advanced there to a professorship of horticulture and horticulturist. He was a member of the American Pomological Society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Zeta."

THE death at the age of seventy-six years is announced of Alfred Vivian, emeritus dean of agriculture of the Ohio State University.

DR. E. P. CLARK, for the past fourteen years senior organic chemist in the Division of Insecticide Investigations of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on November 7.

JOHN W. STACEY, research associate in botany in the California Academy of Sciences, a well-known distributor and publisher of books on biology and medicine, died in San Francisco on October 16 at the age of seventy-two years.

SIR EDWARD BAGNALL POULTON, until his retirement

in 1933 Hope professor of zoology at the University of Oxford, died on November 21 at the age of eighty-seven years.

ACCORDING to a Reuter message from New Delhi, Sir Aurel Stein, the Asiatic explorer, died on October 26 at the age of eighty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BRITISH VITAL STATISTICS

IN the foreword to the Summary Report of his department for the year ended March 31, Ernest Brown, British Minister of Health, states that in many ways the year was a notable one, remarkable, among other things, for a series of favorable records in vital statistics, and for an increase at the same time in short-term sickness. He writes:

> There can be no doubt that the nation's prodigious war effort has imposed a severe strain upon the health of the people—a strain which they have in general withstood with dogged determination and astonishing success. So far as we can, we have made ready to meet any attack that disease may make. . . . But, as has often been emphasized, the strains of war are progressive, and their effects on health may be long-term. Certainly in the fifth winter of war, we must not relax our watchfulness or reduce our activity.

The report, according to *The Times*, London, states that the year was a record-breaking one in vital statistics, apart from the black spots in venereal disease and tuberculosis. Maternal and infant mortality rates and the standardized death rates among civilians, male and female, were the lowest ever recorded in England and Wales, and the incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low, probably the best on record. Inquiries among doctors and rising claims to sickness benefit under the national health insurance scheme suggested a considerable increase in short-term sickness, but an increase in minor ailments might well be expected after more than three years of war.

Deaths in England and Wales in 1942, including registered non-civilian deaths and those due to enemy action, numbered 480,137, or 55,043 less than in 1941, the general death-rate among civilians being remarkably low. Among females the standardized rate was 6.84 per 1,000 living, or 8 per cent. better than in any previous year, notwithstanding the inclusion of deaths in this country from enemy action and the withdrawal of large numbers of healthy young women from the civilian population. Among civilian males the standardized rate of 9.52 was also the lowest recorded, in spite of the considerable effect of selective recruitment. Mortality of children at the pre-school ages of one to five, which had declined by no less than 47 per cent. between 1931–35 and 1939, showed a further improvement of two per cent. in 1942; and at the school ages of five to 15 the low level reached in 1939 was regained.

Live births, 654,039, increased by 66,811, and, after allowing for deaths, there was a natural increase of 173,902, the rate of 15.8 per 1,000 being the highest since 1931.

The report points out that the number of houses repaired up to March 31 was 2,500,000, and well over 1,000,000 had received more extensive repairs. The housing position, however, is serious, and "a vast amount of work is required to bring housing conditions up even to the standard of 1939, a standard by no means as high as that aimed at before the war broke out."

THE HOOKER SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

A BRANCH of the Hooker Scientific Library was opened on November 1, 1942, at Wayne University, Detroit, by Dr. Neil E. Gordon, chairman of the department of chemistry. The object of this branch is to help the library to continue the service which was started at Central College in October, 1939. The demand for translations, searches, abstracting and photocopying became so large that a plan was formulated to develop in Detroit a complete modern chemical library. The sum of $200,000 has been raised by subscription from foundations, chemical industries and individuals, $100,000 to be used for the purchase of the library and $100,000 for modernizing and adding to it.

Contributions are conditional upon the acceptance of the following responsibilities by Wayne University—maintenance and development of the collection; a staff sufficient to make the library useful to chemists; space for housing and service; and maintenance of a chemical technology service covering translations in fifteen languages, searches, consultation and photoreproduction.

Dr. Gordon announces that the acquisition of the library for Wayne University has been assured by a grant of $100,000 toward its purchase by the Kresge Foundation. The other $100,000 is being contributed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the local section of the American Chemical Society, the Barnes, Gibson and Raymond, Burroughs Adding Machine Company, the Chrysler Corporation, Carboloy Company, Inc., Difco Laboratories, Inc., the Detroit Edison Company, the Ethyl Corporation, Eberbach and Company, the Federal Mogul Corporation, the Gelatin Products Company, the General Motors Corporation, the Hercules Powder Company, Mrs. Icie Macy Hoobler, Dr. and Mrs. Sibley Hoobler, the McLouth Steel Corporation, the Miner Estate,