rector of the Missouri State Bureau of Geology and Mines at Rolla, died on March 14 in his sixty-eighth year.

SIR DAVID PRAIN, from 1905 to 1922 director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, died on March 17 at the age of eighty-six years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ALABAMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE Alabama Research Institute was organized as the result of a year's study by a committee of Alabama citizens appointed in 1940 by the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce. Benjamin Russell, the chairman, submitted the report of the committee to the Chamber of Commerce on October 9, 1941. This report concluded:

> That Alabama could no longer afford to sit idly by and permit its vast variety of materials to remain in their present unutilized and unprofitable condition; but instead that Alabama should through scientific research do that which is necessary to bring these materials into profitable use for the comfort and enrichment of the people of our state, as so many other states in our Union are now doing.
>
> Your committee therefore, after unanimously reaching the conclusion that here in Alabama we should have an organization primarily engaged in research work, has drafted a constitution and by-laws for such an agency and adopted as its name Alabama Research Institute.
>
> Alabama Research Institute, in addition to its regular function as a research organization, will act as a coordinating agency in research undertakings, with the University of Alabama, Alabama Polytechnic Institute and other state institutions, and private and corporate organizations in Alabama, covering a broad field as is provided in its constitution. . . .
>
> For the general advancement of our state the Alabama Research Institute needs, and your committee believes will have, the active support of the people of Alabama.

Shortly afterwards the institute was organized as a non-profit corporation.

As now planned, the organization will function in a manner not unlike that of other successful research institutions of similar character, several of which were originally organized and endowed by a few individuals who felt that the field of research should be extended or enlarged. The present approach is on that principle—except that many individuals and business concerns are invited to supply the capital. It is intended that there shall be available within the state a well-equipped laboratory, a comprehensive technical library and scientific personnel for general research purposes.

Initially the institute will be financed almost wholly from subscriptions from business and from individuals. These subscriptions are to be used solely for the purpose of implementing the institute as a going business concern, for the introduction of certain researches on Alabama raw materials, to employ a competent research director and staff, to buy equipment, apparatus and supplies, to obtain and accumulate a technical library, to pay rent for a place for housing the institute and for general overhead and administrative expense. After it has been in operation for a few years, it is hoped that it will be self-sustaining from fees paid by private industry for special research programs and from royalties and profits from patents and discoveries developed by the institute from research in its own behalf.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

A REVIEW of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1943 is given in the annual report of Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, president of the foundation, which has just been issued. During 1943 the appropriations amounted to $7,760,186. The income from investments during the year was $8,079,164. The appropriations were distributed for the most part in six major fields, roughly as follows:

Public health	$2,450,000
Medical sciences	1,529,000
Natural sciences	599,000
Social sciences	1,068,000
Humanities	1,055,000
Program in China	108,000

Of the money appropriated during the year, 69 per cent. was for work in the United States and 31 per cent. for work in other countries.

In discussing a report from its representatives in Rio de Janeiro that gambiae mosquitoes, some of them alive, had been found in planes coming from Accra and Dakar in Africa to Natal and that five live gambiae had been discovered in dwellings near the Natal airport, the report points out that though the situation is now in hand, it poses a problem of larger significance which can not be evaded.

> Around the ports of Africa and deep within the hinterland lie the breeding centers of the gambiae. The safety of the Western Hemisphere, which is now within a few hours' flight across a narrow ocean, can no longer be left to the uncertainties of a flit-gun campaign. Modern airplane travel has made old methods and ideas of quarantine completely obsolete. If the Americas are adequately to be protected, the breeding places of gambiae, wherever in Africa or elsewhere they may be found, must be eradicated. The campaign must be carried to the sources of infestation. It can no longer be defensive; it must be offensive.
>
> But the problem, of course, is far broader than gambiae.

This newly made world which the airplane has tied together has lost its frontiers. Certainly in the field of public health they no longer have significance or meaning. No line can be established anywhere in the world which confines the interest of any one country, because no line can prevent the remote from becoming the immediate danger. Whether it is malaria or yellow fever or typhus or bubonic plague or whatever the disease may be, the nations of the world face these enemies of mankind not as isolated groups behind boundary lines but as members of the human race living suddenly in a frightening propinquity.

Public health can no longer be thought of exclusively in national terms. Whether we like it or not, our technologies now confront us with inescapable demands for a new approach. Some kind of regularized international cooperation is essential. Whatever we may think of the League of Nations, its Health Organization blazed a new trail in the international attack on disease—a trail that must be widened into a firm road. Certainly a service of epidemiological intelligence covering the whole world is an immediate necessity, and many other essential public health activities not only lend themselves to collective approach but can be effectively handled only by that method.

WAR CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE, HYGIENE AND NURSING

THE second War Conference of industrial physicians, hygienists and nurses will be held at the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo., from May 8 to 14. The participating organizations are the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the National Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and the American Association of Industrial Nurses.

Subjects to be presented include welding, in relation to clinical aspects and control of hazards; noise, as to medical phases and means of prevention; better health in small plants; the industrial physician's opportunity to advance medical knowledge; maladjustment and job environment; women in industry, and panel discussions on "Who Can Work?," etc. Two clinics, one surgical, at Barnes Hospital, and the other medical, at Desloge Hospital, will be held during the meeting.

The hazards to health presented by the new synthetic rubber industry, radium, solvents and the toxicology of TNT will be considered; also the possibilities of an excessive silica dust hazard from the quartz crystal industry, which has recently sprung up in many areas of the country; techniques of air sampling in specific reference to the reducing of oil mists and lead fumes, the latter encountered in soldering operations where the hazard is increasing with lack of adequate supplies of tin; and the danger of exposure to cadmium, which is known to be more poisonous than lead and which is responsible for a number of cases of poisoning.

The industrial nurses will consider postwar planning for nurses and medical services in industry.

Reservations at the Hotel Jefferson can be obtained by writing promptly to John Reinhardt, chairman of the "War Conference" Housing Bureau, Syndicate Trust Building, St. Louis, Mo.

THE CLEVELAND MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH in the problems of food during the war will be reported to the Agricultural and Food Division of the American Chemical Society at the one hundred and seventh meeting of the society to be held in Cleveland from April 3 to 7.

Papers dealing with practically every aspect of food chemistry will be contributed by members of the laboratories of universities, industries and federal services. On Thursday, April 6, there will be a symposium on the biological value of proteins with Roger B. Lueck, of the Research Department of the American Can Company, presiding. The opening address at the morning session will be delivered by Dr. H. H. Mitchell, professor of animal nutrition at the University of Illinois, whose subject will be the significance of the biological value of proteins. Dr. Max S. Dunn, professor of biochemistry at the University of Southern California, will speak on optimal growth, a criterion of the biological value of proteins and amino acids. Dr. D. Breese Jones, head of the protein division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will discuss the nutritional and supplementary value of some plant proteins. Other speakers at the morning session will be Dr. Anthony Albanese, of the department of pediatrics of the Johns Hopkins University, who will discuss amino acid analysis of some common vegetables, and Dr. William H. Adolph, a former professor of biochemistry at Yenching University, Peking, who will speak on the protein problem in China.

The afternoon session will be devoted chiefly to a series of papers on amino acids as follows: Dr. Richard Block, of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, on "a comparative study of essential amino acids in food proteins and some implications for nutrition"; "on the human requirements for amino acids" by Drs. John R. Murlin, Estelle Hawley and R. R. Sealock, of the School of Medicine of the University of Rochester, this paper to be read by Dr. Sealock; Dr. Sidney Madden, also of the School of Medicine, on "amino acids and plasma protein regeneration," and Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr., of the Johns Hopkins University, on "the pathological effects of specific amino acid deficiencies."