Whaling Museum, of which he was a director and curator. Shortly before his death a whale was found on a Long Island beach; Dr. Davenport secured its head, and in the process of preparing the skull for exhibition and study he caught a cold which led to a fatal pneumonia.

Those who intimately knew Charles Davenport well know that he was never too busy to give encouragement, counsel and help to younger biologists who brought their problems to him. This large group of men and women, his neighbors, and his many associates in the institutions which he served so long will long remember the rare kindliness and modesty of the tireless man and scientist who daily strove to bring his tasks to a worthy end.

OSCAR RIDDLE

LEROY SHELDON PALMER
1887–1944

THE passing away on March 8 of Leroy Sheldon Palmer, chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry of the University of Minnesota, came as a great shock to his associates and many friends. Dr. Palmer was stricken almost immediately on reaching his office on February 25th and taken to the University Hospital, where death came to him 12 days later from a coronary occlusion.

Dr. Palmer, born at Rushville, Illinois, on March 23, 1887, was the son of Samuel C. and Annie Goodman Palmer and the twin brother of Robert C. Palmer, now a chemist and director of research in the Newport Company of Pensacola, Florida. After receiving his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri in 1909 he became interested in dairy chemistry, and continuing his studies at that university acquired his M.S. degree in 1911 and his Ph.D. degree in 1913. He served on the teaching staff of the University of Missouri until 1919, during which time he formed a research partnership with the late Dr. C. H. Eckles which carried over into many fruitful years of dairy research at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Palmer came to the University of Minnesota in 1919 as associate professor of dairy chemistry and soon became professor of dairy chemistry and animal nutrition. After the death of Dr. Ross Aiken Gortner in 1942 he was appointed chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry.

On coming to Minnesota, Dr. Palmer at once began his research in dairy chemistry which has dealt with the chemistry of milk and dairy products, their composition as affected by the nutrition of the animal, the physical and colloidal chemistry of milk, the chemistry of rennet coagulation, the churning process and many other theoretical phases of milk chemistry. At this same time he also planned extensive research with the late Dr. C. H. Eckles, of the division of dairy husbandry, in dairy cattle nutrition, especially mineral and vitamin nutrition of bovines. He was still cooperating in this research at the time of his passing. His nutrition studies were not confined to dairy cattle but extended into the broader field of animal nutrition in which research is conducted with the small laboratory animal. He was always more interested in the fundamental problems of nutrition than in those problems which could be quickly solved. Thus research which was conceived in the early twenties is still in progress.

Dr. Palmer's contributions to scientific journals number more than 166, and he had also written or made important contributions to seven books. However, his major contribution to science has been through his students, of whom 19 received the M.S. degree and 42 the Ph.D. degree at this university. The success attained by these students testifies to the truthfulness of this statement. He gave freely and liberally of his time and thought to the problems of his graduate students and was a teacher well loved and respected both by the older postgraduate and the younger undergraduate groups. He possessed not only the method and spirit of true graduate work but also a keen intellect and mature judgment, which made him an invaluable counselor. He was always critical in his examination of scientific research, but his criticism never carried a sting. He never failed to help with suggestion and advice and all those who were associated with him worked with a zest and happiness which could only be inspired by a truly great leader.

Dr. Palmer was selected in 1939 as the first recipient of the Borden Award for outstanding research in the chemistry of milk. The standards governing the presentation of the award are high. Only research of the most significant nature is deemed worthy of the award.

Dr. Palmer's scientific achievements won him membership in the leading scientific societies and honorary fraternities in the country. Besides his service on the staff of the *Journal of Dairy Science* as associate editor, he has acted in the capacity of counselor for the American Chemical Society and chairman of the Minnesota Section of this society, vice-president of the World's Dairy Congress (1923), president of the Minnesota Chapter of Sigma Xi, consultant to the American Medical Association and collaborator in the U. S. Pharmacopoeia Vitamin Standardization Committee (1937).

Dr. Palmer's life was not entirely given to study and research. He loved outdoor life and a round of golf; a day of fishing or a long drive through beautiful country gave him the keenest pleasure. He had a fine appreciation of music and literature and spent many quiet evenings in his home reading and listening to radio broadcasts by our great artists. He liked

people and took great pleasure in having his friends in his home, where he was always at his best as a kind and friendly host.

It is with heavy hearts that his associates in the division of agricultural biochemistry carry on the traditions of the department he helped to build.

CORNELIA KENNEDY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. CONRAD ENGERUD THARALDSEN, professor of anatomy and director of the William Waldo Blackman department of anatomy of the New York Medical College, died on May 20 at the age of sixty years.

IN commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the death of Dr. Ernest Fox Nichols, who was from 1892 to 1898 professor of physics at Colgate University, his portrait has been presented to the university by Mrs. Nichols.

ROLF SINGER, assistant curator of the Farlow Herbarium of Harvard University, writes: "We have just received word from friends in Leningrad that Professor Woldemar H. Tranzschel, the most famous mycologist of Russia and specialist of the highest international standing, died during the siege of Leningrad late in 1942. His work on rusts was of high theoretical importance and of immediate practical value for his native country. He was highly honored by the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R., where he had worked during most of his lifetime. He was loved by his numerous pupils and collaborators. Two genera of fungi, *Tranzschelia* and *Tranzscheliella*, were named in his honor, and uredinists of all countries are familiar with his discovery of a relationship between the taxonomy and the ecology of certain types of rust, the so-called Tranzschel-rule. W. Tranzschel cultivated scientific exchange with American mycologists. He is one of the truly irreplaceable victims of total war."

AT a meeting of the council of the American Mathematical Society held on April 29, the death on January 10 of Professor Thomas Scott Fiske, of Columbia University, was announced and appropriate resolutions were adopted. In 1888 through the efforts of Professor Fiske, then a young man of twenty-three years, the New York Mathematical Society was established. Three years later the name was changed to American Mathematical Society. Professor Fiske held the following offices in the society: *Secretary,* 1888–1895; *Treasurer,* 1898–1901; *President,* 1903–1904. He was present at the semicentennial celebration meeting in 1938 of the society he had founded.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HALL OF MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE American Museum of Natural History has recently reopened its Hall of Mexican and Central American Archeology after a complete revision and reinstallation of the exhibits. Although wartime restrictions prevented any extensive alterations in the architectural decor, it was possible to effect a vast improvement not only in the appearance of the exhibits, but in their educational value. The hall is approached through a foyer where a series of five miniature groups presents the ecological variety of Mexico and Central America and illustrates for the visitor the settings in which the prehistoric cultures of the region flourished. Also in this section, fine individual examples of prehistoric art in the form of gold ornaments, jade carvings and pottery are displayed in illuminated niches sunk into the wall.

The hall itself is arranged to serve two interests, that of the casual visitor who wants simply to get an overall picture of the extent and nature of the civilizations of Mexico and Central America and that of the student who wishes to study the collections in detail. For the former a series of illuminated cases containing representative examples of the prehistoric art is deployed on either side of the main axis of the hall. The visitor may, therefore, by walking through the hall gather a visual picture of the character of the native cultures as reflected in their stone work, their pottery and their figurines. Supplementing these exhibits are deep wall cases at either end of the hall, where the famous Stephens Collection of Maya Art and other fine collections are on display, lighted from within the cases.

Along the sides of the hall the analytical exhibits are on view in a number of alcoves. These were designed primarily for the students who frequent the exhibits and for those visitors whose deeper interest might be aroused by the central exhibits. In these cases the various local cultures are defined by typical specimens, their stylistic variations are clarified and their growth and development explained. The complete stratigraphic sequence for the Valley of Mexico is here for the first time placed on view.

Casts of large monuments, stelae and altar stones, architectural models and original stone sculptures are dispersed throughout the hall to supplement the case exhibits. This rearrangement, together with the use