

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