

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.

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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

of case lighting and the device of painting the walls and the cases in the same color, lends a greater visibility to the specimens than they previously enjoyed.

The Hall of Mexican and Central American Archeology is under the charge of the Department of Anthropology, of which Dr. Harry L. Shapiro is chairman. The revision of the exhibits was planned and executed by Dr. Gordon F. Ekholm, assistant curator, and Clarence L. Hay, research associate. They were assisted by Victor Ronfeldt, Miss Katharine Beneker, Joseph M. Guerrey and Matthew Kalmenoff.

THE MUNSELL FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE COLOR STANDARDIZATION

It is reported in *Industrial Standardization* that the promotion of color standardization, nomenclature and specification is one of the primary objects of the Munsell Color Foundation, Inc., which was organized recently. The foundation will also encourage the application of scientific knowledge to color problems arising in science, art and industry.

The foundation is a non-profit organization, which will have a board of trustees, one of whom is to be a member of the staff of the National Bureau of Standards; one to be appointed by the executive committee of the Inter-Society Color Council; one by the manager of the Munsell Color Company; one to be the representative of the Munsell family, and three trustees at large.

Deane B. Judd is the first trustee of the new foundation to be appointed by the director of the National Bureau of Standards, and Loyd A. Jones, nominated by the Optical Society of America, is one of the trustees at large. Both Dr. Judd and Mr. Jones are active in technical committees working on American standards under the procedure of the American Standards Association.

The American War Standard on Specification and Description of Color, approved by the American Standards Association in 1942, recognizes the Munsell Book of Color as the only system of material color standards calibrated in terms of the basic specification—the percentage of light reflected or transmitted by the color, as determined by the spectrophotometer. The system of color names of the Inter-Society Color Council—National Bureau of Standards is also based on the Munsell system.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

THE Sigma Xi Club at North Carolina State College has become the North Carolina State College Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi. The installation took place on April 17 in the college Y. M. C. A. auditorium. The activities of the day began with a

business meeting, with Dr. George A. Baitsell, executive secretary of the national chapter, presiding. The constitution for the new chapter was adopted, charter members signed the constitution and the following were elected officers: Dr. Ralph W. Cummings, head of the department of agronomy, *President*; Dr. G. Wallace Smith, head of the department of engineering mechanics, *Vice-president*; Dr. Samuel G. Lehman, professor of plant pathology, *Secretary*; Dr. William G. Van Note, associate professor of metallurgy, *Treasurer*; Professor L. L. Vaughn, dean of the Engineering School, and Dr. F. H. McCutcheon, professor of zoology, *Members of the Executive Committee*.

At the installation ceremony the petition for the new chapter was presented by Dr. F. H. McCutcheon, retiring president of the club. This was accepted on behalf of the national society by Dr. Baitsell, who reviewed the grounds for installation of the chapter and presented the charter. Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust, a member of the National Executive Committee, made the installation address, presenting the charge to the new chapter. Dr. Cummings accepted the charter and made the response for the petitioning group. Colonel John W. Harrelson, dean of administration, reviewed the advancements and achievements in research of the college and pledged the administration to increased support of research in the future.

Following the formal installation, a reception for members and delegates was held at the home of Colonel and Mrs. Harrelson. In the evening a dinner was served for the national officers, visiting delegates, chapter members and their wives. Following the dinner, Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust delivered an address entitled "Some Biological Interrelationships."

ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ELECTIONS at the spring meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held in Washington on April 25 are:

Treasurer: Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (for a further term of four years; ending June 30, 1948).

Members of the Council (for terms of three years ending June 30, 1947):

Ernest W. Goodpasture, Vanderbilt University.

Irving Langmuir, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York.

New Foreign Associates:

Edward B. Bailey, Geological Survey, Exhibition Road, S. W. 7, London, England.

Leopold Ruzicka, Department of Organic Chemistry, Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland.

New Members:

Thomas Addis, Stanford University Medical School, San Francisco.