

of Glasgow since 1936, in succession to Sir Robert Muir.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports that William

Lutley Selater, zoologist and ornithologist, formerly director of the South African Museum at Cape Town, has been killed by a German flying bomb. He was eighty-one years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE SERVICE OF THE U. S. ARMY

THE objectives of the Preventive Medicine Service of the Office of the Surgeon General are the maintenance and conservation of the health of the Army through the prevention and control of infectious diseases and the elimination of sanitary, occupational and other health hazards. Its recent accomplishments as outlined in a statement from the Office of the Surgeon General are reflected in the current health picture of the Army. The total disease admissions and death rates from troops have been extremely low; in fact, the current death rate from disease of only 0.6 per one thousand per annum is the lowest ever recorded in the history of the Army. Seasonal waves of mild influenza have occurred, but the death rate from this disease has been insignificant. Meningitis occurred almost in epidemic proportions during the past year, but due to early recognition of the disease and adequate treatment with sulfonamides the mortality was less than 5 per cent. as compared with a death rate of 38 per cent. in World War I. Venereal disease rates have been significantly lower than during the last war and are continuing to decline. The rates of certain insect-borne diseases and bacillary dysentery in some sections of the overseas theaters have been undesirably high where adequate control measures have been difficult to carry out under combat conditions, but the incidence from these diseases is steadily declining. There have been no reported cases of plague, cholera or yellow fever, and fewer than fifty cases of epidemic typhus have occurred with no deaths.

Specifically, among the accomplishments of the service during the past year were the following:

1. The Army Epidemiological Board and the ten commissions operating under the board increased the scope of their activities, particularly in overseas theaters, and made important contributions in the control of scrub typhus, meningococcal meningitis, measles, sandfly fever and respiratory diseases. Its Commission on Influenza has succeeded in developing a promising vaccine against influenza. Other commissions are making critical studies of infectious hepatitis, rheumatic fever, dengue fever and certain neurotropic virus diseases.

2. The prevention of insect-borne diseases among troops, particularly in combat areas, has been extensively studied and effective methods of control have been promulgated. The development and establishment of stand-

ard practices of application of DDT powder, aerosol insecticides and certain insect repellants have been effective in reducing the incidence of insect-borne diseases.

3. Days lost from duty because of venereal diseases have dropped from 1,278 per one thousand in 1940 to 400 per one thousand per annum and even lower non-effective rates are to be expected with the newer treatment methods utilizing sulfonamides and penicillin. In addition, during the past year over 100,000 civilians with venereal diseases have been inducted into the Army and successfully treated.

4. Sanitary engineering activities have ensured pure drinking water, adequate swimming and bathing facilities, waste and sewage disposal for troops; laboratories have been created and staffed with trained personnel; the Army industrial program has been expanded to ensure healthful working conditions and adequate treatment facilities for over 850,000 civilians employed in Army owned and operated arsenals, depots and plants; and training and assignment of nutrition officers has continued and studies are continually being made in cooperation with the Office of the Quartermaster General to improve existing rations.

THE BUDGET OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

It is announced that the budget of the University of Wisconsin for 1944-45 has been approved by the Board of Regents. It amounts to \$7,105,288 for educational, science research and public service work during the fiscal year beginning on July 1.

Of this amount \$4,277,144 is appropriated by the state. The university earns the remaining 40 per cent. of its budget from direct receipts, from federal grants or from gifts from business, industry, foundations and individuals.

The budget makes provision for the return of salary waivers, left over from depression days, to about a hundred faculty members in the higher salary ranks, whose salary waivers, first imposed in 1932, have never been restored. The waivers in the lower salary ranks were restored in 1937.

In addition, in order to comply with the requirement that civil service employees receive systematic increases on July 1 of each year, it will be necessary to request an appropriation of \$60,344 from the State Emergency Board. This includes the appropriation for general operation, books and equipment; maintenance and operation of the physical plant; agricultural extension service; the agricultural experiment