

professor of chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University, died on July 28 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. WILBERT B. HINSDALE, anthropologist and professor emeritus of internal medicine at the University of Michigan, dean of the Homeopathic Medical College, died on July 26. He was ninety-three years old.

DR. FRANK J. TONE, chemical engineer, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Carborundum Company, died on July 26 at the age of seventy-five years.

SIR RALPH FOWLER, since 1932 Plummer professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge, died on July 28 at the age of fifty-five years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION FOR LIBRARIES

THE American Standards Association announces that it has on hand copies of the first four completed volumes in the Universal Decimal Classification for libraries, being published by the British Standards Institution as a British Standard. This work, which may extend to additional volumes, sets up a system for classifying library books that can be applied to special subject libraries, as well as to general libraries all over the world. Since the use of numbers has eliminated language as a barrier, any librarian should be able to make use of a library of another country where this system is used and feel perfectly at home.

The Universal Decimal Classification is actually a highly detailed enlargement of the Dewey Decimal System, developed along somewhat the same lines. The universal classification is a great deal more specialized and more intricate. It will prove useful, therefore, primarily to experts and libraries in specialized fields, since it is designed to accommodate an indefinite number of subdivisions.

This classification was prepared by the Federation International de Documentation with the help of leading experts in many fields. It has been adopted by the International Federation of the National Standardizing Associations for the classification of its documents, and is the most widely used of any single classification. Both the British Society for International Bibliography and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureau requested this English edition of the Universal Decimal Classification, with the approval of the Education Foundation, Lake Placid Club, New York, publishers of the Dewey Decimal Classification. French and German editions have already been published.

The subdivision of the "subject" classes follows the accepted principle, "from groups of wide extent to groups of less extent," that is, there are main classes and auxiliary classes. The main classes, like philosophy, religion, social sciences and art, are broken up into auxiliary classes such as psychology, Christian churches and sects, law, architecture, and these classes may be further subdivided.

From time to time various readjustments are ex-

pected to be made. The Universal Decimal Classification is under the continual supervision of experts in an effort to keep it up to date. The British Society for International Bibliography and a series of international subject secretariats are two of these groups, although the Commission and Secretariat of the Classification of the Hague has the final decision for amendments and extensions.

While it is necessary that fully developed tables be placed at the disposal of experts and specialists, an abridged system formed by the major groups with simpler symbolic representation can be used for the classification of books in smaller libraries.

The classification is especially valuable in specialized files owing to its complete detail. It is also well adapted for use in connection with various automatic card sorting machines.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN AVIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE first meeting of the University of Illinois Advisory Board on Aeronautics, which is composed of members distinguished for their work with various aspects of aviation and related activities, was held at the University Club, Chicago, on June 30.

The board was appointed to assist the university in the organization and development of a comprehensive program of education and research in aviation. It includes not only technological phases, but also economic, sociological and medical aspects.

Much of the activity of the university will center around its new airport now under construction. There will be three runways, each 5,300 feet in length and 150 feet wide. Space is available for extending the runways to 8,300 feet, as well as for additional runways. The facilities planned are sufficient to accommodate any aircraft now in use, including the B-29. The university has purchased 763 acres of land up to the present time and the area will be expanded as needs develop.

The last session of the Illinois State Legislature appropriated \$250,000 for land and \$500,000 for the construction of buildings. In addition, the Civil Aeronautics Administration approved contracts amounting to \$1,354,000 for improvements, including runways, drainage, taxiways and other construction.