

RECENT DEATHS

SELSKAR MICHAEL GUNN, vice-president since 1927 of the Rockefeller Foundation and from 1922 to 1927 director of the Paris office of its International Health Board, died on August 2 at the age of sixty-one years.

EDWARD BAUSCH, chairman of the board of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, N. Y., died on July 30. He was eighty-nine years old.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Professor Charles Homer Baxter, head of the departments of civil and mining engineering at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, died on July 29 after a brief illness. Professor Baxter had been head of the departments since

1927. He was a graduate of the college in the class of 1902. For many years he engaged in mining, and was superintendent of large iron-mining operations. He was the senior author of a standard work on mine examination and valuation, had served on various tax bodies and was an expert witness in the Minnesota Taxation Cases of 1935. He had also been president of the National Alumni Association of the Michigan College of Mining and of the Lake Superior Mining Institute."

DR. RAMÓN G. LOYARTE, director of the Institute of Physics of the National University of La Plata, Argentina, died on May 30.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE KRESGE-HOOKER SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

THE original collection of books now known as the Kresge-Hooker Library was made by Samuel Cox Hooker, whose complete biography has been written by C. A. Browne.¹ Dr. Hooker was a native of England who received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Munich and then came to America with the hope of securing a position at a university. Being disappointed in his efforts, he accepted a position with the Franklin Sugar Refining Company and became a sugar chemist in 1885. After thirty years of outstanding scientific, technical and financial success in that field, he retired at the age of 51 to devote the remainder of his life to private research and the assembling of a world-famous library. During the next 20 years he had representatives in various foreign countries to help him complete his collection.

At Dr. Hooker's death in 1935, the library was catalogued and offered for sale. At the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society Dr. Charles L. Parsons announced that the library was for sale. Since the writer was to take a position at Central College the following fall he felt that this offer might present an opportunity to acquire certain additions for its library.

Mr. Sidney W. Davidson, of New York City, was the executor for the estate, and on reaching his office it was learned that the Hooker Library would not be divided. Mr. Davidson stated that he had already had offers of \$100,000 for the entire library from three different industries, but he had not accepted any of them because it had been Dr. Hooker's request that it go to some college or university, if possible, preferably in the West. The writer was able to get a 24-hour option on the library for Central College. In order that Dr. Hooker's request might be fulfilled, the

heirs of the Hooker estate contributed \$30,000, while Mr. G. A. Pfeiffer and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer, of the William R. Warner and Company, Inc., contributed the other \$70,000 for the purchase of the library. The Chemical Foundation paid for moving the library from New York to Central College.

Central College accepted the gift without taking time to ascertain the cost of maintaining such a library. When this cost was ascertained, it proved to be greater than the college could bear. Thereupon the writer organized the society known as the "Friends of the Hooker Scientific Library" in order, first, to create an endowment fund for keeping the library up to date, and, secondly, to form an organization through which the library might have a greater function than serving a small college. In the fall of 1940 Dr. Julian F. Smith, of the du Pont Company, was employed to help make the library more serviceable by providing translations, abstract work, searches, photo copies, etc. This organization continued until the spring of 1942, when the writer accepted the chairmanship of the Department of Chemistry at Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan, under the condition that he be permitted to attempt to transfer the Hooker Scientific Library to Wayne University.

On examination of the problem of the transfer by a committee of Detroit chemists, it was found that, in order to make the transfer on a satisfactory basis, \$200,000 would be required. The first \$100,000 would be for the purchase of the library, and the second for providing publications for which subscriptions had lapsed so that the library might once more claim the title of being the most complete one in its field in the world. Furthermore, the plan called for the maintenance of the library by Wayne University. This general plan was specifically presented to some industries outside Detroit, as well as in Detroit, with the result that five donations were quickly obtained from

¹ *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 550: 1936.

the following companies: The William R. Warner and Company, Inc., the Hercules Powder Company, outside of Detroit, and the General Motors Corporation, the Ethyl Corporation and the Miner Estate, inside of Detroit. These gifts were for \$5,000 each, subject to the condition that the total amount of \$200,000 be raised. During the summer of 1943 Central College had two other offers of \$100,000 each for the library, and, therefore, since there was only an oral option on the library until January 1, 1944, it was agreed with the college that the option would terminate on October 20, 1943.

Since \$200,000 had to be raised, it was evident that larger donations than \$5,000 were necessary. On October 2 the writer called on the Kresge Foundation and presented the problem to Mr. Stanley S. Kresge, who promised to take it up with his Board in a few days. The result was that on October 19, the Board authorized the gift of \$100,000 to purchase the Hooker Scientific Library, thus making it possible to exercise the option on October 20.

In addition to the gift of \$100,000 by the Kresge Foundation, the following companies gave \$5,000 or more for the project, and many individuals and other companies made smaller contributions: Chrysler Corporation, Dow Chemical Company, Ethyl Corporation, Gelatin Products Company, General Motors Corporation, Hercules Powder Company, Miner Estate, Parke, Davis and Company, W. R. Warner and Company, Inc., Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation.

NEIL E. GORDON

WAYNE UNIVERSITY

THE NATIONAL ELECTRONICS CONFERENCE

A PROGRAM covering television, ultra-high frequency and radio developments in the communications field, and industrial measurements, electronic controls, induction heating, and power and medical applications of electronics is being arranged for the National Electronics Conference which will be held at the Medinah Club, Chicago, on October 5, 6 and 7.

The conference is sponsored by the Illinois Institute of Technology and Northwestern University as participating sponsors, and the Chicago Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Chicago Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers as cooperating sponsors.

Dr. J. E. Hobson, director of the School of Engineering of the Illinois Institute of Technology, who is chairman of the executive committee, states that the first conference is planned to provide: (1) a technical meeting for the presentation of original papers covering fundamental developments in electronics and the applications of electronic apparatus; (2) a forum for the review and correlation of recent electronic

developments in their proper perspective; (3) a symposium for the interchange of ideas, methods of approach and technique between scientists and electronic engineers working in different fields of application, and (4) an educational conference to acquaint engineers with this relatively new and rapidly expanding field. He points out that in addition to providing a permanent record of technical and application papers for reference and study the conference should help to integrate and correlate work being done in fields rather divergent in their applications of electronic devices and principles.

Although including the use of electronics in communications, the first conference will emphasize scientific developments and also applications in industry, processing operations, power conversion, measurements, medicine and in similar fields. Opportunity will be given for discussion. A program, embracing all important fields of electronics, has been prepared by Professor Arthur B. Bronwell, Northwestern University, who is also chairman of the Program Committee. The opening address, entitled "Electronic Research Opens New Frontiers," will be given by Ralph R. Beal, research director for the Radio Corporation of America.

The Medinah Club, 505 North Michigan Avenue, will be headquarters for the conference. It will have facilities for all activities and can accommodate approximately two hundred and fifty of those who may wish to stay there. The club will reserve rooms in the nearby North Side hotels to provide for any overflow. Those planning to attend are urged to make their hotel and train reservations at an early date.

The Arrangements Committee, of which Professor P. G. Andres, of the Illinois Institute of Technology, is chairman, will accept registrations for the conference by September 1. Advance registration by mail is desirable.

Further information may be obtained from Dr. Hobson, who can be addressed at the Illinois Institute of Technology, 3300 Federal Street, Chicago 16, Ill.

A HARVEY W. WILEY MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

At the one hundred and eighth meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held from September 11 to 15 in New York City under the presidency of Thomas Midgley, there will be presented a symposium sponsored by the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, which will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Harvey W. Wiley, "Father of American Food Chemistry," who was born on October 18, 1844. Dr. N. B. Guarrant, of Pennsylvania State College, chairman of the division, will preside.

Food quality, to attain which Wiley finally secured