

a program to develop smut-resistant wheats adapted to Washington conditions. Hybrid 128, developed at the Washington Experiment Station through work begun by Dr. W. J. Spillman, was widely used at the time but was very susceptible to smut. Beginning with Hybrid 128, Gaines led the program of crossing it with smut-resistant varieties and from this came successively Redit, Albit and Hymar, the latter now the leading winter wheat in eastern Washington. This was but part of the work which led to an international fame for Dr. Gaines. He was the author of numerous scientific articles.

In addition to a busy research program, Dr. Gaines was active in church and civic affairs, in the Boy Scouts and in the Grange. He was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in the American Society of Agronomy and a member of the American Phytopathological Society, American Botanical Society, Northwestern Scientific Association, Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Alpha Gamma Rho.

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DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. HARRY BERMAN, associate professor of mineralogy at Harvard University and curator of the Mineralogical Museum, died on August 30 in an air crash of an American Transatlantic plane in Scotland. He was on leave of absence from the university and was in charge of research laboratories and of crystal production for the Reeves Sound Laboratories, Inc., and the Hudson American Corporation, both of New York. At the time of his death he was *en route* for England to supervise work for the Royal Air Force and the United States Army Eighth and Ninth Air Forces.

DR. WALTER L. JENNINGS, until his retirement in 1937 professor of chemistry at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, died on September 2, in his seventy-eighth year.

DR. JOHN FITCH KING, professor of chemistry and chairman of the department at Williams College, died on August 29. He was in his fiftieth year.

DR. R. BENNETT BEAN, from 1916 to 1941 professor of anatomy at the University of Virginia, died on September 3 at the age of seventy years.

DR. HENRY WILSON STILES, professor of anatomy at Syracuse University, died on September 5 at the age of sixty-nine years.

EDWARD F. BERRY, professor of civil engineering and head of the department at Syracuse University, died in his fifty-fifth year on August 28.

WALTER HARVEY WEED, of Los Angeles, consulting geologist, died on September 5. He was eighty-two years old.

SIR ARTHUR SMITH WOODWARD, from 1901 to 1924 head of the department of geology of the British Museum, died on September 2. He was eighty years old.

It is reported in *The Times*, London, that the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, with which John Dalton, the chemist and physicist, was closely associated throughout his life in Manchester, is commemorating his work on the occasion of the centenary of his death. In addition to a memorial lecture, arranged for the first meeting of its next session, the society hopes to publish a memorial volume, in which it is desired to give the whereabouts of relics of Dalton. Many of those which the society possessed have been destroyed by enemy action.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ASTRONOMY IN SOVIET RUSSIA¹

Nature reports that nine of the nineteen Soviet observatories were in territory that was overrun by the Germans and have been destroyed or seriously damaged. Most important of these was the Pulkovo Observatory, near Leningrad, which was completely destroyed by air and artillery bombardment. Most of the equipment and the valuable library of the observatory were removed in time to safer places. The Pulkovo staff has continued astronomical research work at Tashkent, Abastumani and Alma-Ata. Professor Belyavsky, director of the observatory, states that it has been decided that reconstruction is to com-

mence immediately and that the instrumental equipment will be reinstalled at Pulkovo at the earliest possible moment, to make possible the resumption of work in fundamental astronomy. More powerful equipment is to be constructed in the U.S.S.R. or obtained from abroad. The Engelhardt, Nikolaeff and Tashkent Observatories will also carry on fundamental observations.

The *Moscow News* has reported the decisions of an astronomical conference held in Moscow in September last. A great astrophysical observatory is to be established with headquarters at Simferopol in the Crimea. There will be three observing stations, one in the Crimea at an altitude of 2,000 meters, a solar station at an altitude of 3,500 meters, and a station

¹ See article by O. Struve, "Post-war Planning in Russia," *SCIENCE*, February 4, 1944, p. 100.