

OBITUARY

RECENT DEATHS

SIMON HENRY GAGE, professor of histology and embryology, emeritus, of Cornell University, died on October 20 at the age of ninety-three years.

DR. CHARLES BERNARD LIPMAN, professor of plant physiology and dean of the graduate division of the University of California, died on October 22. He was in his sixty-first year.

DR. CHARLES LEWIS THORNBURG, emeritus professor of mathematics and astronomy of Lehigh University, died on October 14. He was eighty-two years old.

WILLIAM BAUSCH, chairman of the board of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company and the last surviving son of John Jacob Bausch, who founded the company with Captain Henry Lomb in 1856, died on October 19. He was in his eighty-fourth year.

DR. JAMES A. BABBITT, professor emeritus of clinical otolaryngology of the School of Medicine of the

University of Pennsylvania, died on October 16 at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. J. C. RATSEK, for the past nine years horticulturist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, in charge of investigations on roses at Substation No. 2, Tyler, died on October 5 at the age of forty-one years.

DR. OLIVER ATKINS FARWELL, who retired in 1933 as curator of the herbarium and drug inspector of Parke, Davis and Company, died on September 18 in his seventy-seventh year.

PROFESSOR SIR JOHN LEDINGHAM, F.R.S., formerly director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine and professor of bacteriology at the University of London, died on October 4 at the age of sixty-nine years.

DR. EUGEN OBERHUMMER, professor of political and historical geography of the University of Vienna, retired, died on May 4 at the age of eighty-five years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MARKING the first step in the resumption of work on international standardization halted by the war, the newly organized United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee opened a New York office on October 16.

In order to carry out its work effectively, the committee will maintain two offices, one in London, at the base of European operations, and one in New York, since so many of the war and relief supplies come from this side of the Atlantic. The London office is already operating under the direction of Charles C. LeMaistre, formerly director of the British Standards Institution. The New York office is at 70 East 45th Street. Each office will work with a certain group of countries, and each will keep the other in close touch with its activities.

The purpose of the United Nations Standards Committee is to promote cooperation between the allied belligerent countries in standardization matters as an aid to the production and use of war supplies and equipment and also in relief work. It seeks to secure the maximum possible coordination of standards necessary for the war effort and for the immediate post-war period.

Planning for this committee has been done at a series of international meetings in Washington, New York, Toronto and London. The most recent meetings took place in London on August 29 and September 8. They were attended by delegates from Aus-

tralia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and the United States, and by an observer from Russia. South Africa, while not able to send a representative, has expressed the intention of joining the United Nations Standards Committee and helping to support it. Invitations to join have been issued to Mexico, Brazil and China.

The committee is set up for a period of two years. A review of its work is planned at the end of that time. Participation in the work will be open to the national standardizing bodies of such of the United Nations as may desire to take part in and support the work.

The committee has been requested to undertake (1) work on building materials and equipment (requested by the Industrial Rehabilitation Division of the UNRAA); (2) standardization of flat bottom rails needed to rebuild the heavily damaged transportation systems of France and the other occupied countries (suggested by the Inter-Allied Transportation Committee); (3) a project for the suppression of radio interference (suggested by the British Standards Institution).

Herbert J. Wollner, of Washington, D. C., has been made head of the New York office. Howard Coonley, director of the Conservation Division of the War Production Board, has been appointed the official representative of the American Standards Association on the Coordinating Committee, which consists of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Russia and the United States; and P. G. Agnew, secretary of the as-

sociation, has been named a member of its Executive Committee.

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL CONFERENCE AND THE CHEMICAL EXPOSITION

A NATIONAL Industrial Chemical Conference will be held at the Coliseum in Chicago from November 15 to 19. The National Chemical Exposition will be held at the same time and place.

At noon on Wednesday, preceding the opening of the conference, a joint luncheon will be given at the LaSalle Hotel with members of the Chicago Association of Commerce and the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society taking part. Following the luncheon a meeting will be held at which "New Research Developments in Industry" will be discussed by Dr. Roy C. Newton, of Swift and Company; J. K. Roberts, of the Standard Oil Company (Ind.), and Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, of the Abbott Laboratories. M. H. Arveson, of the Standard Oil Company, chairman of the exposition, will preside.

The subject of the evening session will be "Metals, Present and Future" with Dr. C. W. Balke, of the Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation, as chairman. The following addresses are planned: "New Developments in and Future Developments for Aluminum" by Dr. P. V. Faragher, of the Aluminum Company of America; "Magnesium in Peace-Time Economy" by L. B. Grant, of the Dow Chemical Company, and "Hardenable Bands for Alloy Steels" by J. Mitchell, of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation.

At the meeting on Thursday afternoon under the chairmanship of V. Conquest, director of research of Armour and Company, the discussions will be devoted to the subject of "The Chemist in Pharmaceutical Manufacture." The speakers and their subjects will be Dr. C. R. Addinall, of Merck and Company, Inc., "Synthesis and Production of Vitamins"; Dr. D. L. Tabern, Abbott Laboratories, "The Chemist Looks at Anesthesia"; and Dr. John F. Norton, of the Research Laboratories of the Upjohn Company, "Research in the Production of Penicillin and Other Antibiotics."

A discussion on "The Achievements of the Chemical Engineer" is planned for the evening, with Dr. Gustav Egloff, of the Universal Oil Products Company, as chairman, at which Dr. George Granger Brown, professor of chemical engineering of the University of Michigan, will speak on "The Petroleum Industry" and J. Collyer, of the B. F. Goodrich Company, on "The Synthetic Rubber Industry."

A dinner at 6:30 P.M. on Friday evening will be followed at 8:00 P.M. by a joint meeting with the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, with R. E. Zinn as chairman. Dr. C. F. Kettering, of the Research Laboratories Division of the General Motors Corporation, will make an address entitled "Current Contributions of the Chemist and Chemical Engineer to Human Progress."

On Saturday morning Dr. C. S. Marvel, of the University of Illinois, will preside at a forum discussion at which A. L. Elder, of the Corn Products Refining Company, will speak. His address will be entitled "What Is a Chemist and Chemical Engineer?"

Personally conducted tours of the exhibits for high school and college students of chemistry and their teachers have been arranged for Saturday morning.

MEMORIAL MEETING IN HONOR OF MARIE SKLODOWSKA CURIE

To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Marie Sklodowska Curie, a memorial meeting in her honor was held at Columbia University by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America at 8 P.M. on Friday, October 20. Six Columbia departments, including chemistry, chemical engineering, East European languages, medicine, physics and radiology, took part.

H. E. Sylwin Strakacz, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General of Poland in New York, delivered an address. A message from Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology, was read. Professor Marston Taylor Bogert, of Columbia University, president of the International Union of Chemistry and honorary member of the Chemical Societies of Poland and France, presided.

Professor W. Swietoslawski, of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, vice-president of the Polish Academy and of the International Union of Chemistry, formerly rector of the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, spoke on "The Legend of Madame Curie." Professor Casimir Fajans, of the University of Michigan, a member of the Polish Academy, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Discovery of Radium and the Modern Development of Chemistry and Physics."

Other speakers included Professor L. Brillouin, Collège de France, president of the Section of Sciences, Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes, and the following six representatives of the cooperating departments of Columbia University: Professor Arthur W. Thomas, Professor Arthur W. Hixson, Professor Clarence A. Manning, Professor Ross Golden, Professor George B. Pegram and Professor Gioacchino Failla.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Legion of Merit has been awarded in Paris to Colonel David Sarnoff, of New York, president of the Radio Corporation of America, "for ingenuity and

resourcefulness in restoring cables severed by the enemy," and for his work with the U. S. Signal Corps of the Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force in pre-