

## OBITUARY

## DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

BROWDER JULIAN THOMPSON, associate research director of the laboratories of the Radio Corporation of America at Princeton, N. J., since December, 1943, a consultant in the office of the Secretary of War, was killed on July 4 during a flight in an Army plane in the Mediterranean area. He was forty years old.

WILLIAM SHIELDS MYERS, from 1901 to 1926 director of the Chilean Nitrate Commission for the United States, previously associate professor of chemistry at Rutgers University, died on January 10 at the age of seventy-eight years.

DR. REID T. STEWART, professor emeritus of engineering of the University of Pittsburgh, died on January 12 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. D. MACCALLUM BLAIR, regius professor of anatomy in the University of Glasgow, died on November 10 at the age of forty-eight years.

THE establishment of the Samuel Slater Memorial Research Laboratory as a part of the Textile Division of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been announced. The laboratory houses the latest developments in electronic equipment for research on the physical properties of textiles. It is sponsored by S. Slater and Sons, Inc., and will be under the direction of Professor Edward R. Schwarz and the staff of the textile division of the department of mechanical engineering. It is a tribute to the pioneering work of Samuel Slater, for whom the laboratory is named.

H. Nelson Slater, his grandson, now serving as a Commander in the United States Navy, made the presentation.

THE College of Dentistry of New York University held its Horace Wells Centenary Celebration on December 8. The speakers were Drs. E. A. Rovenstine, Isaac Neuwirth and Anthony Mecca.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the Louis Pasteur monument, standing on a pedestal west of the Chicago Museum of Natural History, was presented on December 12 by the Chicago Park District to the Medical Center Commission. It will be placed eventually in Convalescent Park in front of Cook County Hospital. The commission on December 28 voted an appropriation of \$25,000 to move the statue, which weighs fifty-four tons and rests on a five hundred and forty-five ton marble and concrete base. In 1927 the statue was given to the park district by a citizens committee headed by the late Dr. Frank Billings. The monument will be rededicated as a symbol of medicine to mark the gateway to a tract of three hundred and five acres which the commission is seeking to acquire for the development of a medical center.

THE centenary of Sir Patrick Manson, "father of tropical medicine" (1884-1922), was marked by a special meeting on December 15 at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London. Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, his son-in-law, gave an illustrated address entitled "The Manson Saga."

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## VITAL STATISTICS OF AUSTRALIA

THE correspondent from Canberra, Australia, of *The Times*, London, reports that the National Health Medical Research Council, discussing the decline in the birthrate from 32.4 births per 1,000 in the five-year period 1891-95 to 20.7 in 1943, urges the provision of homes with labor-saving devices, domestic help for mothers, the promulgation of measures for contributing to economic security and the establishment without delay of greatly improved hospital, medical and nursing services for maternity.

The council emphasizes that merely to replace the population without striving for an increase requires four children in each family, and an income providing for less is manifestly no solution of the problem. No single man should be regarded as nationally equal to a man with a family, and a family of four or more children should be adequately compensated.

Statements collected from 1,700 women showed that two important factors contributing to the great growth of birth-control were the decreasing dependence of women and an increasing sense of insecurity, economic, psychological, social and international. The number of women admitting deliberately induced abortion was very disturbing. Without immigration, and with fertility continuing in its recent trend, Australia's population would rapidly dwindle after 1950. Public policy should aim at mitigating economic and social disadvantages suffered by the children of parents of the larger families.

An examination of the birth-rate made by a Commonwealth statistician shows that before 1890 it would have doubled the population in 30 years without the aid of migration and that it was increasing the population by from 80 to 90 per cent. in a generation. By 1911 it had fallen to a 40 per cent. increase in a generation, and a decade later to 30 per cent.; by 1932 the level was below that required to replace the existing population. Since then it had risen substantially, but this was owing to