

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

transient factors, including the war-time marriage boom. By 1943 the rate had just attained the replacement level, but the available data indicate that the population will dwindle rapidly after 1950 and that by 1980 deaths will exceed births. In about 20 years the population will reach 8,000,000 and will then begin to decline, returning to its present level by about the end of the century.

MEETINGS OF ENTOMOLOGISTS

APPROXIMATELY three hundred and fifty entomologists registered at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, for the fifty-sixth annual meeting of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, meeting jointly on December 13, 14 and 15. This registration was augmented by approximately a hundred Army, Navy and Public Health Service individuals who were anxious to get the latest information on DDT.

Almost an entire afternoon was devoted to the presentation of papers on the usefulness of DDT as an agricultural insecticide and this was supplemented by a round-table discussion for an entire day of all the aspects of DDT as an insecticide. The entire morning was devoted to postwar planning. The individual societies devoted several afternoons to the presentation of formal papers and to the business of the respective organizations. The meeting was rated as one of the best ever held by the entomologists, many of whom came from the Pacific coast, Southwest and South.

The Economic Entomologists elected D. L. Van Dine, Washington, D. C., *President*; T. H. Frison, Urbana, Ill., *Vice-president*; and Ernest N. Cory, College Park, Md., *Secretary-Treasurer*. The Entomological Society elected J. A. G. Rehn, Philadelphia, *President*; and Herbert H. Ross, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

ERNEST N. CORY,
Secretary-Treasurer

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting and war conference of the American Phytopathological Society was held at the Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio, from December 9 to 11, 1944. Approximately three hundred members attended. Sixty-three individuals were elected to membership in the society bringing the total membership to 1,089 as of December 11.

The three-day program included the presentation of eighty papers on original research, which were presented in sections entitled: Fungicides, Virus and Bacterial Diseases, Disease Resistance, Seed and Soil Treatments, Factors Affecting Disease Development and Fungus Diseases.

In addition to the presentation of research papers

several conferences were held, including the conference concerning activities of the War Committee. The activities and accomplishments of this committee as developed through sub-committees and regional committees, and through cooperation with other agencies are so extensive that they have had some influence on most of the food, oil and fiber production of the United States and Allied Nations.

A conference on "New Developments in Fungicides" was of special interest to many including representatives of fungicide manufacturers.

At a conference on plant disease surveys it was definitely shown that the work of the Emergency Plant Disease Prevention Program has proved of great value to war-time American agriculture by increasing the effectiveness of plant disease control programs throughout the country. It was reported that a number of new and potentially destructive diseases have been discovered in the United States. These have been called to the attention of research and quarantine agencies so that they may be studied and watched as a necessary precaution against future losses.

Following presentation of papers dealing with "disease resistance" an informal discussion was held on "breeding for plant disease resistance." A conference on the phloem necrosis disease of elm discussed the possibilities of checking the spread of this disease and of informing those interested of the present research program. Current problems and recent developments in seed treatment research work were taken up in a panel discussion.

The officers of the society for 1945 include: Dr. H. B. Humphrey, Box 14, Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C., *President*; Dr. J. H. Craigie, Central Experiment Farm, Ottawa, Canada, *Vice-president*; Dr. E. M. Johnson, Agricultural Experiment Station, Lexington, Ky., *Secretary*; and Dr. R. M. Caldwell, Department of Botany, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., *Treasurer*.

THE NATIONAL MALARIA SOCIETY

THE National Malaria Society held its twenty-seventh annual meeting conjointly with the Southern Medical Association in St. Louis, Mo., from November 14 to 16.

The program was presented in three half-day scientific sessions. That of the fourteenth was held jointly with the Sanitary Engineers and Sanitation Officers Section, Southern Branch of the American Public Health Association, comprising eleven papers. On the fifteenth a joint session was held with the American Society of Tropical Medicine at which eleven papers were presented. At the session on the sixteenth, twelve papers were presented.

A business meeting was held subsequent to the scien-