

he was active in the affairs of the International Astronomical Union from its very beginning. He was a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of England and a member of the Astronomische Gesellschaft and of the Société Astronomique de France. At home he had served as vice-president of the American Astronomical Society and as vice-president of Section D of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and for three years he had been a member of the National Research Council. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and of Sigma Xi, but his membership in these fraternities did not consist solely in having his name on the list; he was an active participant in the affairs of their Wesleyan chapters.

As a quiet but effective advocate of good-will and cooperation both at home and abroad, as an inspiring teacher and congenial colleague, Professor Slocum will long be remembered by a world-wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

CARL L. STEARNS

RECENT DEATHS

WILLIAM BENJAMIN GREGORY, professor emeritus of experimental engineering and hydraulics of Tulane University, died on January 29. He was in his seventy-fourth year.

DR. EDWARD E. REINKE, professor of biology at Vanderbilt University, chairman of the division of natural science and mathematics, died on January 25. He was fifty-seven years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE UNITED STATES COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF PARICUTIN VOLCANO

LAST June at the annual meeting of the Section of Volcanology of the American Geophysical Union, a symposium on the current activity of the infant Mexican volcano, Paricutin, caused the retiring officers to recommend to the National Research Council that a committee be formed under its auspices to integrate the study of the eruption and its effect before the opportunity was lost. The chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography then invited Richard E. Fuller, the newly elected president of the section, to assume the responsibility of serving as chairman.

By the end of July, the U. S. Committee for the Study of Paricutin Volcano was organized and approved with the stated objective: "The purpose of the committee is to coordinate with Mexican scientists the research on the Paricutin volcano and to encourage and facilitate studies in various scientific fields related to the problem. It intends thereby to avoid useless repetition and especially to save from neglect important aspects which depend on the collection of accurate data before activity subsides and the record of eruption is obscured by time. The scope of the proposed investigation includes geological, geophysical, chemical, meteorological and other scientific studies. The committee would endeavor to stimulate the interest and the support of scientific organizations and governmental agencies in these various projects." The initial members were Richard E. Fuller, *chairman*, research professor of geology, University of Washington; Fred M. Bullard, professor of geology and mineralogy, University of Texas; W. F. Foshag, curator of mineralogy, U. S. National Museum; L. C.

Graton, professor of mining geology, Harvard University; D. F. Hewett, special staff scientist, U. S. Geological Survey; A. G. McNish, magnetician, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution; Paul A. Smith, chief, Aeronautic Chart Branch, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; O. W. Swainson, chief, Division of Geomagnetism and Seismology, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; C. Warren Thornthwaite, chief, Climatic and Physiographic Division, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Howel Williams, professor of geology, University of California; E. G. Zies, chemist, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution; William W. Rubey, *ex-officio*, chairman, Division of Geology and Geography, National Research Council. Subsequently, the committee was enlarged to include O. O. Fisher, of Detroit; Robert T. Hatt, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and Ezequiel Ordóñez, chairman of the corresponding Mexican committee, and Vocal Geólogo de la Comisión Impulsora y Coordinadora de la Investigación Científica.

Under the sponsorship of the Comisión Impulsora, Ordóñez, who has been principally responsible for recording the activity of the volcano, formed the Comité Mexicano para el Estudio del Volcan de Paricutin, with the following membership: Teodoro Flores, director del Instituto de Geología; Ricardo Monges López, director de la Facultad de Ciencias; Pedro C. Sánchez, director del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia; Manuel Medina, Jefe del Departamento de Geografía y Meteorología de la Secretaría de Agricultura; Alfonso de la O Carreño, Jefe del Departamento de Geología de la Comisión Nacional de Irrigación; Hermión Larios, Departamento de Exploraciones de Petróleos Mexicanos;

Ramiro Robles Ramos, Geólogo de la Comisión Nacional de Irrigación. This committee has recently been allotted a substantial fund by the Mexican Government.

The support of the State Department's Interdepartmental Committee for the Cooperation with Latin American Republics has made possible two of the major projects which were submitted by the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The Geological Survey has assigned Howel Williams to map the region with the assistance of Kenneth Segerstrom as topographer, and thus to supplement the record of Ordóñez, Foshag and others, while the Coast and Geodetic Survey is having seismic and magnetic observations made by their volcanological geophysicist, Austin E. Jones, who will have as a background the recently published report of the preliminary studies made by that governmental agency during 1943.

The Geological Society of America has generously allotted a grant from The Penrose Fund to Fuller, as chairman, for the accession, construction and maintenance of shelters, trails and other physical facilities at the volcano, and has very substantially earmarked additional funds for other projects that may be recommended by the Paricutin Committee and approved by the project and executive committees of the society. The physical improvements have been made increasingly necessary owing to the difficulties imposed by the continued activity of the volcano, which in recent months has erupted extensive flows in various directions. They are also required for the installation of instruments in a region where throughout the year one usually contends with either rain or dust, and, incidentally, with the depredations of tourists.

Through the cooperation of the Carnegie Institution, E. G. Zies, volcanological chemist of the Geophysical Laboratory, visited Paricutin during November and December in order to become better equipped to serve the committee as counselor and adviser. He was also helpful in defining feasible and potentially diagnostic geophysical projects. Although some of these phases of investigation have to be carried on during the course of the eruption, others can only be successfully pursued after the activity has largely subsided. The committee is also sponsoring studies of related biological problems in the hope of correlating all critical data concerning the eruption.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

THE National Nominating Committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, consisting of members from various parts of the country, has nominated the following official ticket of candidates for the offices becoming vacant on August 1, 1945:

For President: W. E. Wickenden, president, Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio.

For Vice-Presidents (Middle Eastern District): Ernest S. Fields, vice-president, Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. (Southern District): Herman B. Wolf, superintendent of maintenance, Duke Power Co., Charlotte. (North Central District): L. M. Robertson, transmission and station engineer, Public Service Co. of Colorado, Denver. (Pacific District): F. F. Evenson, consulting engineer, San Diego. (Canada District): F. L. Lawton, assistant chief engineer, Aluminum Company of Canada, Montreal.

For Directors: John M. Flanigen, distribution engineer, Plant Accounting, Georgia Power Co., Atlanta. J. R. North, assistant electrical engineer, Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, Jackson, Mich. W. C. Smith, Pacific district engineer, General Electric Co., San Francisco.

For National Treasurer: W. I. Slichter, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, Columbia University.

These official candidates, together with any independent nominees that may be proposed later in the manner specified by the Constitution and By-laws, will be voted upon by the membership at the coming election this spring.

AWARDS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE AERONAUTICAL SCIENCES

A MEETING of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences was recently held in The Engineering Societies Building, New York City, under the presidency of R. H. Fleet.

Honorary fellowships were awarded to Dr. Edward P. Warner, vice-chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, and to Sir Frederick Handley Page. Colonel Sir Vivian Gabriel, of the British Air Commission to Washington, accepted for Sir Frederick.

Fred E. Weick, chief engineer of the Engineering and Research Company of Riverdale, Md., received the Sylvanus Albert Reed Award for a contribution to aeronautical science in recognition of his development of the two-control, non-spinnable Ercoups in the small plane field.

The John Jeffries Award for contributions to aeronautical medicine went to Air Marshal Sir Harold E. Wittingham, director general of medical sciences of the Royal Air Force.

The Octave Chanute Award was conferred on Colonel Benjamin S. Kelsey, of the Army Air Forces, for his work in testing high-speed aircraft.

The Robert M. Losey award was conferred on John Cary Bellamy, special consultant to the Weather Service of the Air Forces, who is now in the Pacific, for his contributions to meteorology during the year. The award was accepted for Mr. Bellamy by Dr. Horace R. Byers, of the University of Chicago.

The Lawrence Sperry Award for the best contributions of a young man to aeronautical science was given