too-rare art of scientific presentation. The temptation is seductive to the busy scientific worker to make a book by compilation from earlier publications or lecture notes. Here Austin Dobson's exhortation to the artist

> See that thy form demand
> The labour of the file.

has been followed, and the book is a unit—the work of a great teacher as well as a great investigator.

After nearly twenty years, this book is still required reading for the advanced student. In some matters—such as the source of stellar energy—the advance of knowledge has superseded Eddington's tentative suggestions, but the main lines of his investigation still stand evidence of his remarkable insight. This is equally true of his studies on variable stars (pulsating and eclipsing) and on diffuse matter and gas in interstellar space.

The third period of Eddington's work was devoted to the presentation of arguments leading to the conclusion that the primary properties of matter—especially those which are represented by the dimensionless constants which occur in nature—may be deduced by abstract epistemological reasoning from very general considerations. Upon these investigations the writer is not qualified to speak.

No summary of his work would be complete without mention of his epigrammatic wit—and as his description of the imaginary Scottish professor of Geloeology, who thoroughly understood the rules of this hypothetical science of humor, and could infallibly classify any kind of joke—without ever having *seen* one!

Few people cared less for formal distinctions. One of the writer's most vivid memories of him is of delegates gathering at their hotel before a formal banquet, at which courtesy demanded the wearing of decorations—and of Eddington with an ancient rain-coat buttoned tightly at the neck—to hide the Order of Merit!

He never married; his widowed mother and his sister (who survives him) made for him a home perfectly adapted for his temperament and his work. After a short illness, he died on November 21, 1944, leaving a name which will endure in the annals of science.

HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FRED H. ALBEE, orthopedic surgeon of New York City, died on February 16 in his sixty-ninth year.

DR. MARK J. SCHOENBERG, ophthalmologist, died on February 15. He was seventy years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

THE war has forced the National Geographic Society to curtail its scientific field expeditions, but the archeological studies that have been made annually since 1937–38 in southern Mexico under the sponsorship of the society and the Smithsonian Institution will be continued.

The seventh expedition, led by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, is on its way to the southernmost Mexican State of Chiapas, where, digging into burial mounds and clearing jungle growth, he will continue the study of pre-Columbian civilization in this hemisphere. Dr. Stirling is accompanied by Mrs. Stirling and Richard H. Stewart, geographic staff photographer.

The expedition this year plans to conduct its studies in the mountains east of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. According to Dr. Stirling, pottery and jade objects, which have given important clues to the pre-Columbian peoples who inhabited other regions of southern Mexico where he has visited, have been reported southwest of Tuztla Gutierrez.

The former expeditions have followed the early Olmec culture down the east coast of southern Veracruz State and into Tabasco. Explorations last year demonstrated that the Olmecs did not extend their civilization beyond the middle of the State of Tabasco, but turned towards the Pacific Ocean, following the mountains bordering the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Six carved basalt heads of fifteen to twenty tons each were unearthed. Their origin and use after they were carved about seven centuries ago still is a challenge to archeologists. Near Tres Zapotes the expedition discovered a stone bearing, in Mayan symbols, the earliest recorded date found in this hemisphere—November 3, 291 B.C.

Members of the expedition picked up figurines of jade and clay, one of the latter with wheels. It is believed that this doglike figurine was made about a thousand years ago and thus is probably the earliest evidence of the use of wheels in the western hemisphere.

Another find was a priceless cache of jade. The expedition had been in the field nearly four months in 1941 and was about to break camp when it unearthed seven hundred and eighty-two pieces of jade fashioned into rings, human and animal figures, ear plugs and pendants.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

DR. STUART MUDD, professor of bacteriology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Charles N. Frey,