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 In some matters—such as the source of stellar energy—the advance of knowledge has superseded Eddington's tentative suggestions, but the main lines of his investigation still stand evidence of his remarkable insight.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,

director of the Fleischmann Laboratories, Standard Brands, Inc., New York, were elected to membership on the Board of Trustees of *Biological Abstracts, Inc.*, at the annual meeting held in Philadelphia on February 3.

Approximately 3,000 collaborators assist in the preparation of abstracts; 1,100 of them have assignments for abstracting one or more journals in entirety. Arrangements are made for abstracting about 1,925 journals. The abstracts are edited by 157 section editors and assistants. A full-time staff with fourteen members is maintained in the Philadelphia office.

Twenty-three thousand, three hundred abstracts were published last year. This number is expected to increase in 1945, with a great post-war increase anticipated when accumulated literature becomes available from abroad.

Present officers of the Board of Trustees were re-elected as follows: *President,* Dr. A. F. Blakeslee, Smith College; *Vice-president,* Dr. E. G. Butler, Princeton University; *Treasurer,* Dr. D. H. Wenrich, University of Pennsylvania; *Secretary,* Dr. Robert Gaunt, New York University.

Present board members re-elected were: Howard P. Barss, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. R. E. Cleland, Indiana University, and Dr. E. G. Butler, Princeton University.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE war's weather problems, particularly those related to flying, held the spotlight during the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society, which was held at Kansas City on January 24, 25 and 26. High ranking meteorological officers of the Army and Navy were among those in attendance. Canada, Latin America and Russia were also represented. The free-for-all discussion of problems facing forecasters for aviation the world over not only resulted in a general appreciation of the diverse demands on meteorological service, but also brought out helpful suggestions on how to adapt successful experience in one theater to another. The general tenor of the meeting was that of an official international, yet completely informal, round table conference.

Significant of the relation of meteorology to the war is the fact that it was the increased interest in the subject generated by World War I that led to the demand for an American Meteorological Society. In 1919, Sergeant P. W. Etkes, a graduate of the School of Meteorology of the Signal Corps, wrote to his former instructor, Dr. Charles F. Brooks, expressing the generally felt need for a meteorological society. Dr. Brooks carried this idea forward[1] to the organization of the society and its affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the St. Louis meeting in December, 1919.

The demand of the present war for meteorological services has led to a great expansion of the membership and activities of the society. In 1920 the society completed its first year with about 900 members. The membership dropped to about 600 by 1927, but with the growth of airways, climbed back to 900 by 1937 and reached 1,200 in 1939. The war has carried the membership to 1,600 in 1943 and over 2,500 in 1944. So strong a professional group has grown up that the society has just instituted a professional class of membership, and is developing postwar expansion of meteorological opportunities, chiefly industrial applications.

In 1920, the society began the publication of its monthly *Bulletin* which at first included less than 200 pages a year of articles, notes, news, announcements, reviews, etc. The *Bulletin* has grown gradually to some 430 pages a year. The editors have been Charles F. Brooks, sixteen years; B. M. Varney, one year; R. G. Stone, eight years. The *Bulletin* now has a paid circulation of more than 4,000.

For some time the need had been felt for a journal devoted entirely to the publication of more or less advanced meteorological research, and in 1944 the society, under the leadership of its president, Professor C.-G. Rossby, director of the department of meteorology of the University of Chicago, undertook the publication of a quarterly *Journal of Meteorology.* This is being edited by Professor Victor P. Starr, of the department of meteorology at Chicago.

Beginning in 1934 with a series of articles by Jerome Namias in the *Bulletin,* editor R. G. Stone brought out a publication called "Introduction to the Study of Air Mass Analysis," which went through five editions, giving students of meteorology nearly 20,000 low-priced books expounding the air mass analysis methods which had developed since World War I.

From its first year, the society has fostered the distribution of meteorological publications not its own. It now has a Book Service which obtains for its members meteorological publications from all over the world, both purchases and library loans. Readers of the *Bulletin* are kept informed of what is being published by a bibliographical department where current publications together with abstracts are listed in classified form.

The society from its beginning has been hemispherical in scope, always having a considerable number of Canadian and Latin-American members. Two of its

[1] SCIENCE, August 22, 1919.