

DR. STEPHEN PATRICK BURKE, professor of chemical engineering at Columbia University, died on March 10 at the age of forty-eight years.

ALBERT HOWARD HORTON, chief of the Power Resources Division and district engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, died in Washington, D. C., on March 4 at the age of sixty-nine years. He had been employed as a Federal engineer for nearly forty-seven years, of which nearly forty-two were spent in the Geological Survey, where he has been regarded as an authority on surface water and power resources.

HAROLD RYLAND SMALLEY, director of soil improvement work and for more than twenty-five years a

member of the staff of the National Fertilizer Association, died on February 27 at the age of fifty-eight years.

HENRY KRIEGER MCCONNELL, vice-president of the Tobacco By-Products and Chemical Corporation of Louisville and Richmond, known for his work on the production of nicotine and its derivatives, died suddenly on February 25.

DR. ALBRECHT PENCK, professor of geography, emeritus, of the University of Berlin, has died in Prague at the age of eighty-seven years. Dr. Penck occupied the Silliman chair at Yale University in 1908 and acted as Kaiser Wilhelm exchange professor at Columbia University the following year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN MISSOURI

THE activities of the University of Missouri in the field of wildlife conservation will be expanded to include studies on methods of increasing the fish population of the streams, lakes and ponds of the state. This expansion has been made possible by a bequest amounting to approximately \$150,000 made by the late William James Rucker, who died at Charlottesville, Va., on December 19, 1941.

Mr. Rucker was a native Missourian, born at St. James in 1873. He was well known as a substantial contributor to the support of various hospitals, including St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis and Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville; he was also active in his support of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Rolla, St. James and Charlottesville. He was deeply interested in wildlife conservation as an active member of the Izaak Walton League, and his bequest to the University of Missouri for the purpose of educating the youth of Missouri in wildlife conservation was apparently motivated by a desire to further the principles and plans formulated by the Missouri Conservation Commission.

As a memorial to Mr. Rucker the Board of Curators of the university has created a Rucker professorship of zoology, and has announced the appointment of Professor Rudolf Bennitt to the new professorship. Professor Bennitt, since 1927 a member of the faculty, holds degrees from Boston and Harvard Universities. With the organization of the Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in 1937, he became chairman of its administrative committee.

The expansion of teaching and research in wildlife conservation will be principally in the field of aquatic

biology and will be under the supervision of Dr. Robert S. Campbell, who was recently appointed assistant professor of zoology.

AWARD OF THE PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

LEONARD H. CRETCHER, assistant director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research and head of the department of research in pure chemistry, as already announced in *SCIENCE*, received the 1944 award of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society at a dinner meeting of the section on February 15. Dr. E. E. Marbaker, of Mellon Institute, presided as toastmaster. The program included brief speeches on various phases of Dr. Cretcher's professional career by Dr. Robert S. Tipson, of the department of research in pure chemistry of the Mellon Institute; Dr. W. W. G. MacLachlan, associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and chief of medicine at Mercy Hospital, and Dr. E. R. Weidlein, director of Mellon Institute.

Dr. W. A. Gruse, who was chairman of the Pittsburgh Award Committee for 1944, presented the medalist to Dr. H. K. Work, chairman of the Pittsburgh Section, who conferred the award in recognition "of his eminence in the fields of organic and biochemistry, his successful investigations of the constitution of the carbohydrates present in marine vegetation, his outstanding achievements in the selection and synthesis of anti-pneumococcic and anti-malarial therapeutic agents, and his marked ability in the directing of theoretical and industrial research in the field of chemistry."

The following details in regard to Dr. Cretcher's life and career are taken from the official statement: