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:

Dr. Cretcher was born at DeGraff, Ohio, in 1888, and received his A.B. from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. from Yale. He taught at the Universities of Michigan and Tennessee and was associated with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, where he worked with the great biochemist, P. A. Levene. During World War I he served in the chemical service branch of the National Army in France and became a Captain in the Chemical Warfare Service. He has had a distinguished career as a research and industrial chemist.

In 1920, Dr. Cretcher became assistant chief chemist for the National Aniline Company and later became research chemist. His first association with Mellon Institute was in 1922 as senior fellow in pure research. Some 25 patents and 70 technical papers have resulted from the investigations of Dr. Cretcher and his co-workers on fundamental phases of specialized fields in organic chemistry in this period. Of particular importance has been his study of quinine derivatives and other cinchona alkaloids as drugs for curing pneumonia caused by the pneumococcus; this investigation culminated in the discovery of the value of hydroxyethylapocupreine as an antipneumococcic drug. Dr. Cretcher's career has been characterized by exceptional ability in the selection and supervision of research personnel.

Dr. Cretcher, the eleventh recipient of the Pittsburgh Award, has been active in the affairs of the American Chemical Society. He served as chairman of the Pittsburgh Section in 1931 and has been a councilor of the section since 1932.

## MEDALS OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

THE annual Medal Day ceremonies of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, will be held on April 18. As already announced in SCIENCE, the Elliott Cresson Gold Medals for 1945 "for discovery or original research, adding to the sum of human knowledge, irrespective of commercial value" will be presented to Rear Admiral Stanford Caldwell Hooper, U.S.N., retired, for his work in radio for the U. S. Navy, and to Professor Lewis F. Moody, of Princeton University, for his work on the design and development of hydraulic turbines and pumps.

The Frank P. Brown silver medal given annually "for inventions and discoveries involving meritorious improvements in the building and allied industries" will be presented to Gilmore David Clarke, dean of the College of Architecture, Cornell University, "in consideration of his technical ability, foresight, initiative and outstanding leadership in the field of town and city planning."

Dr. Zay Jeffries, a vice-president of the General Electric Company, will receive the Francis J. Clamer silver medal "for his meritorious contributions to the science of metals, which he has placed on a new and more intelligible basis."

## PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE National Research Council announces that it is the recipient of a grant of $335,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the establishment of a temporary, nation-wide program of predoctoral fellowships for graduate study in the natural sciences. The fellowships are designed to encourage resumption of graduate study by young men who have had to interrupt their education to engage in war work, by enabling them to devote essentially full time to the completion of their work for the doctor's degree. In view of the uncertainty of the duration of the war it is not expected that the program can be inaugurated immediately. This preliminary announcement is made so that young men now in war work will realize that perseverance in their present important tasks will not prejudice their opportunity to pursue their formal education later, and that it may be inadvisable to make commitments at present for postwar employment.

Plans for administration of the fellowships and methods for the selection of candidates are not yet worked out in detail, but it is intended that stipends will be fixed at rates to compare favorably with most other fellowships at this stage of training.

The council and the foundation have developed this program to help to alleviate the very serious set-back to American scientific competence resulting from the war's interference with normal educational processes. The almost complete cessation of consecutive professional training which has occurred in scientific fields will make impossible for some time the normal accession of additional highly trained personnel. These losses, in the face of sharply increasing demands for such personnel, will inevitably retard to the danger point the resumption of scientific progress after the war. The resulting handicap to postwar industrial recovery, public health and military security is a matter of national concern.

It should be realized, however, that this generous grant is sufficient to furnish financial assistance to only a moderate fraction of all graduate students who should resume study for advanced professional degrees in the natural sciences and that, therefore, other types of assistance heretofore available should not be curtailed. The program is planned also not to divert too many qualified candidates from part-time teaching positions, since it is expected that colleges and universities will, after the war, be overburdened with undergraduate students in these fields.

The National Research Council will continue to administer its postdoctoral fellowship program, which