

perfectly true adventures and experiences during his early years in the Philippines, among wild people in remote localities, was a thrilling revelation.

ALBERT W. C. T. HERRE

RECENT DEATHS

DR. CARLTON C. CURTIS, who retired in 1934 as professor of botany at Columbia University, died on April 12. He was eighty years old.

PROFESSOR RAY KEESLAR IMMEL, dean of the school of speech at the University of Southern California, died on April 14 at the age of sixty years.

DR. FRANK R. ELDRED, consulting chemical engineer, died on April 15 at the age of seventy years.

DR. MARTIN HENRY DAWSON, associate professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University, died on April 27 at the age of forty-eight years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PLANS are being made for the celebration of the Centenary of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, Kensington. These, however, must be dependent on the progress of the war. An article on the history and plans of the college appears in *The Times*, London. It calls attention to the fact that the college, like many English institutions, came to being not by an act of new creation but by a fusion and development of earlier foundations. It is a federation of three constituent colleges—the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College (formerly the Central Technical College of the City and Guilds of London Institute); and these in turn were related to earlier institutions. The earliest of all was the Royal College of Chemistry, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the Prince Consort in June, 1846.

The Times writes:

By a Royal Charter of Incorporation dated July 8, all three were federated in one great college, unique in our educational system. (In the case of the City and Guilds College revised conditions of incorporation were approved by his Majesty in Council on July 19, 1910.) The Imperial College is an institution expressly charged with the provision of "the highest specialized instruction . . . and the most advanced training and research in various branches of science, especially in its application to industry." Equally with pure science, technology is its primary concern; yet, alone at present among colleges concerned with technology; it devotes all its energies to work at university level. It is a "peak institution" comparable with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the "alliance" concluded with that institution in 1944 was a recognition of community of aims and interests. Its Charter established it "as a School of the University of London." Its visitor is his Majesty the King.

The need is urgent for new laboratories, new equipment and additional staff and income with which to extend the provision of "the most advanced training and research." But for these, it is pointed out, the college must look, as formerly, to public funds, and

the people's need for houses must delay its building program. Meanwhile in the college as it exists there is much that can be done, though under difficulties, to improve its amenities and to extend its corporate life.

CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND REGIONAL WELFARE

A "Conference on Research and Regional Welfare" was held at the University of North Carolina on May 9, 11 and 12. President Wilson Compton, of Washington State College, gave the opening address with the title, "The Power of Ideas."

The Thursday morning session was devoted to the general topic "Research in the South." President Raymond R. Paty, of the University of Alabama, spoke on "The Development of Southern Research," and Dr. Wilbur A. Lazier, director of the Southern Research Institute, on "Research for Prosperity in the Industrial South." In the afternoon papers were read by Dr. Russell M. Wilder, head of the Department of Medicine of the Mayo Foundation, on "Research in Nutrition: Importance to the Public Health"; and by Brigadier General James S. Simmons, chief of the Preventive Medicine Service, Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. A., on "The Foundation for Future Progress in Health and Public Service in the South." The evening session was devoted to research in the humanities and social sciences. Professor Avery Craven, of the University of Chicago, spoke on "History and Social Reconstruction"; and Professor D. C. Allen, of the Department of English of the Johns Hopkins University, on "Research in the Humanities."

In the morning session, May 11, Milton H. Fies, consulting engineer of Birmingham, Ala., planned to make an address on "Research and Industry as a Factor in Southern Development" and Reuben B. Robertson, executive vice-president of the Champion Paper and Fibre Company, on "Needs and Opportunities for Research in Industry." The afternoon was devoted to fisheries and agriculture, with Dr. Harden F. Taylor, recently president of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Company, speaking on "Fisheries Research in South-

ern Betterment," and George J. Wilds, president of the Pedigreed Seed Company, of Hartsville, S. C., on "Research and the Southern Farmer."

At the final session addresses were scheduled to be made by Dr. David E. Lilienthal, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, on "Southern Development and Regional Planning," and by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, formerly president of the Standard Oil Development Company, on "Research and Industrial Development."

THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY OF THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

IN the fall of 1944 the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society initiated a campaign to raise funds in support of the department of technology of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

This department was the first of its kind in any public library and for some years was one the finest technical libraries in the country. Its files of older scientific periodicals are remarkably complete. Even to-day, there are on the shelves a few foreign journals not found elsewhere in America. Material in the department is for reference use only, but thousands of circulating books in pure and applied science may be borrowed from the lending department.

The catalogue system is a unique type of classified, annotated index which does not exist in any other library. The department has had the services of one of the outstanding technology librarians of the country, E. H. McClelland, but has lacked funds during recent years to maintain its former excellence; it has been open to the public eighty-two hours per week but has had to curtail rather than expand its service.

The section has had for many years a standing Library Committee, formed some years ago under a former section chairman, Dr. J. O. Handy, during whose administration the sum of \$2,600 was turned over to the department. The library was then and still is supported by city funds and has no endowment.

Last summer, Dr. Gilbert Thiessen, chairman of the Library Committee of the Pittsburgh Section, began some constructive work to obtain funds for the department of technology. He gained the enthusiastic support of Dr. W. A. Gruse, then chairman of the section. As a result, a Technology Library Fund Committee was appointed. It included a number of scientific men—many of them directors of local research laboratories.

The work started by Dr. Gruse was continued by Dr. H. K. Work, the present chairman of the section, when he assumed office in the early part of the year. The work of raising the money was handled by C. G. Fisher, chairman of the Fund Committee, who has long been chairman of the Finance Committee of the Pittsburgh Section.

The Technology Library Fund was inaugurated with a goal set at \$50,000. The Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society contributed \$2,000 from its treasury. Through the efforts of Mr. Fisher and his committee, the total amount of the fund is now \$66,195. Most of it has come from industries, some of which are more than a hundred miles from Pittsburgh. A contribution of \$10,000 came from the Buhl Foundation and others came from individuals.

The fund is administered by a seven-member committee consisting of representatives of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society, the Mellon Institute for Industrial Research, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of Pittsburgh and the technology librarian of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The present members of the committee are:

Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society: *Chairman-elect*, Dr. R. N. Wenzel; *Chairman of the Library Committee*, Dr. Gilbert Thiessen; *Chairman of the Finance Committee*, C. G. Fisher.

The Mellon Institute: Dr. W. A. Hamor.

The Carnegie Institute of Technology: Dr. B. R. Teare, Jr.

This committee confers regarding purchases to be made with the fund which is not an endowment but is designed to supplement the funds regularly made available; the department already has placed subscriptions for many new technical journals, and is again buying technical literature in accordance with the needs of the district. Although the amount to be expended as initial outlay and for the maintenance of subscriptions each year will vary, it is estimated that the fund will be sufficient for several years.

The library fund will not be restricted to the purchase of chemical literature. Chemists are represented in all industries and utilize the technical developments of all branches of science. The fund is designed to enable the department to regain, and to improve upon, its former service in providing reference literature in the entire field of pure and applied science—the whole field of technology in its broadest interpretation.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THERE has been formed a national committee of more than one hundred members, sponsors for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the New York Botanical Garden. John W. Davis, formerly ambassador to Great Britain, has accepted the chairmanship. The committee includes prominent botanists, scientists and industrial and lay leaders in all parts of the nation.

The fiftieth anniversary will be observed in various ways throughout the year. The first major event of