

and chief of the department of anesthetics at the New York Hospital, died on May 11 at the age of thirty-two years.

DR. STANLEY WELLS KEMP, since 1936 director of the Plymouth Laboratories, England, secretary of the

Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, died on May 16. He was sixty-four years old.

DR. HAROLD HIBBERT, professor of industrial and cellulose chemistry at McGill University, who retired in 1943, died on May 4 at the age of sixty-seven years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ACTIVITY OF PARICUTIN VOLCANO

DURING March, the effusive activity of Paricutin diminished while the explosive activity increased in intensity. All the lava vents close to the western base of the cone that were active during February died early in March. Of the two principal ones, that which opened on January 12 was extinguished on March 5, by which time a narrow, branching stream had extended northward for almost a mile. The other main vent in that vicinity, which opened on February 4, continued to discharge lava until approximately March 10. It sent a longer stream northward that first cascaded down steep slopes and then buried most of Paricutin Village not already inundated by the flows of 1943 and 1944. The "Aguan vent," which opened at the south base of the cone on or about November 10, 1944, continued to emit lava throughout March, though in diminishing amount. At the vent itself no fresh lava could be seen, only an active hornito shaped like a beehive. Apparently the lava, after flowing for half a mile through a concealed tunnel close to the southeast foot of the cone, broke through its crust and set out many new tongues that spread over the earlier already solidified Aguan lava to the east of the cone. One of these new tongues was injected beneath and thus upheaved the heavily ash-laden lava erupted from the parasitic cone of Zapicho in 1943. Such sill-like injections of new into old lavas have been a recurrent phenomenon at Paricutin.

Meanwhile the explosive activity of the main cone has been unusually intense. Indeed, during the latter part of March the fall of ash was so heavy and the mantle of newly fallen material was so stirred by winds that for most of the daylight hours the cone was completely hidden from view. At night, when the winds subsided, the flanks of the cone were brilliantly lit by showers of glowing bombs.

No new lava vent has opened at Paricutin since February 4; whether or not this crescendo of explosive activity heralds a new effusion remains to be seen. When the cone was last climbed, on March 5, it contained a single, deep, funnel-shaped crater within which were two small, more or less cylindrical pipes, one of which was lined with incandescent magma.

COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH  
COUNCIL ON THE STUDY OF THE  
PARICUTIN VOLCANO

### THE BAUSCH AND LOMB OPTICAL LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MEMBERS of the optical manufacturing industry have collaborated in recent months to bring up to date the Adolph Lomb Optical Library at the University of Virginia. When this collection on the science of optics was placed at the university, no provision was made for purchase of works published currently in that field of learning. Consequently the passage of twelve years found the library deficient in certain important aspects in which research has made advances. When this situation was brought to the attention of the optical industry, the following firms joined in establishing a fund of \$1,100 with which to purchase the most significant recent publications for addition to the library: the Anchor Optical Corporation, New York City; Applied Optical Industries, New York City; Benschur and Holmes Optical Company, Philadelphia; Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, Toledo; the May Oil Burner Corporation, Baltimore; Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company; Zenith Optical Company, Huntington; and Richard B. Tucker, '06, vice-president, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Pittsburgh. Now that provision has been made for bringing the collection up to date, a movement is under way in the industry to establish a modest fiduciary fund, the income of which will be used to purchase books and thus ensure the continuance of the library as the outstanding collection in its field of science. Companies or individuals wishing to have a part in this movement are advised to communicate with Dr. Harry Clemons, librarian, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

A catalogue of the library is now in process of publication for complimentary distribution among the members of the industry who have participated in this service. The catalogue will carry an introduction by Dr. James P. C. Southall, for many years professor of physics at Columbia University.

### PITTSBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A REGIONAL society "to advance and disseminate geologic knowledge, and to provide a forum for geologic problems" has been organized at Pittsburgh under the name of the Pittsburgh Geological Society. The first meeting was held on October 27, 1944. Details of organization have been worked out at the five

successive monthly meetings, culminating at the April meeting when the constitution and by-laws were adopted.

The organizing committee was headed by George C. Grow, Jr., who has also been selected as president of the society for the year 1945-1946. Other first-year officers are Raymond E. Birch, *vice-president*; W. B. Robinson, *secretary*; and Dr. Shailer S. Philbrick, *treasurer*. These officers, together with the following, comprise the council: Robert E. Bayles, Hugh R. Brankstone, C. H. Feldmiller, Dr. Richard M. Foote, John T. Gale, David K. Kirk and Dr. J. H. C. Martens.

Speakers at the first six meetings and their subjects follow: Major Raymond C. Moore, State Geologist of Kansas, now on leave in the Army, "Geology and Geomachy"; Dr. Kirk Bryan, Harvard University, "The Geological Antiquity of Man in America"; Dr. Carey Croneis, president, Beloit College, "Science and the Future"; Dr. Philip S. Smith, chief Alaskan geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, "Alaska's Potential Oil Resources"; Dr. W. C. Krumbein, senior geologist, Beach Erosion Board, "Sedimentation and Its Relation to Oil Finding"; and Dr. Walter H. Bucher, professor of geology, Columbia University, "The Deformation of the Earth's Crust."

Except for Major Moore and Drs. Croneis and Bucher, these speakers were obtained through the Distinguished Lecturers Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Attendance at the first six meetings, each held in Pittsburgh, has averaged slightly more than a hundred persons. As has been hoped for by the organizers, the drawing range extends into Ohio and West Virginia as well as throughout western Pennsylvania. The cooperation of personnel of the U. S. Geological Survey and of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia geological survey groups has been of much assistance. It is planned to hold monthly meetings except for the summer months, these to be in Pittsburgh. Field conferences may be held when transportation facilities are improved.

The diverse geologic interests represented in this area include petroleum and gas, coal, iron and steel, refractories and other ceramic industries, as well as academic groups and amateur geologists.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P.M., May 28, in the club rooms of the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Hotel William Penn. This will be a symposium on the wartime activity of the U. S. Geological Survey in the Ohio-West Virginia-Pennsylvania area, particularly concerned with detailed study of the Berea sandstone. The discussion will be led by Dr. James F. Pepper, David F. Demarest and Dr. Gordon Rittenhouse.

Further information concerning the society and its

activities may be obtained by addressing W. B. Robinson, Gulf Research and Development Company, Box 2038, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.

### THE EFFECT OF NUTRITION ON THE COURSE OF TUBERCULOSIS

THE Hastings Foundation has purchased a tract of land from the La Vina Sanatorium and is converting a former preventorium building into the Charles Cook Hastings Home. The site is just north of Pasadena, Calif. Construction is nearing completion, and Dr. Edward Kupka, medical director of both institutions, has announced that the opening day will be about August 1. The Hastings Home is being established pursuant to the will of Charles H. Hastings, who left approximately three million dollars for the study and treatment of tuberculosis. The institution is to be a research type hospital in memory of his father, who died of the disease.

Agreement has been made with the Veterans' Facility, San Fernando, to treat twenty veterans of this war who have developed tuberculosis. The entire cost of their care will be paid by the Hastings Foundation.

Dr. Horace R. Getz, research associate of the Henry Phipps Institute of Philadelphia, will be director of the laboratories. He will continue the research on nutrition hitherto carried on by him in Philadelphia.

An attempt will be made to learn the effect of nutrition on the course of tuberculosis. It is planned to study minimal cases only at first. Objective nutrition tests on the blood and biomicroscopic examination of the eyes, tongue and gums will be a part of the routine examination of the subjects, all of whom will receive a good standard sanatorium diet with one half being given food supplements. Progress of the disease in both groups will then be carefully compared.

### AFFILIATION OF SIGMA ALPHA WITH ALPHA EPSILON DELTA

SIGMA ALPHA, premedical fraternity of the University of Louisville, on April 29 became affiliated with Alpha Epsilon Delta, national honorary premedical fraternity, upon their installation as the Kentucky Alpha chapter. The initiation of eighteen active and three honorary members was conducted by Dr. Hugh E. Setterfield, associate professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of the Ohio State University and national president of Alpha Epsilon Delta. Sigma Alpha was organized on March 29, 1933, at Louisville, under the auspices of Dr. A. W. Homberger, head of the department of chemistry and premedical adviser. Their affiliation marks another step in the activities of Alpha Epsilon Delta.

Founded at the University of Alabama in 1926 by a group of premedical students, Alpha Epsilon Delta has expanded its membership to include thirty-four