bureau staff will cherish likewise those admirable qualities of the man himself that so endeared him to his friends.

LYMAN J. BRIGGS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECENT DEATHS

THE death, at forty-three years, is announced of Dr. Albert H. Palmer, of the University of Toronto, formerly of the department of agricultural biochemistry of the Pennsylvania State College.

GEORGE T. SEABURY, since 1925 secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers, died on May 25 at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. FREDERICK WILLIAM SHAW, professor of parasitology at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, died on May 29 at the age of sixty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE TECTONIC MAP OF THE UNITED STATES

A TECTONIC map of the United States was published in November, 1944, and is now on sale by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.[1] In simple terms a tectonic map is one that depicts by symbols and patterns the geologic structure—that is, the lay of the rock strata, their folds and dislocations, and the position of volcanoes, salt domes and many other features.

The map has been in great demand during the five months since its publication, which suggests that geologists have previously felt a need for one and for the new viewpoint which it gives them on many geologic problems. Geologic maps which show the distribution of rocks at the surface are readily available, and one of the United States was published by the Federal Geological Survey in 1933. Tectonic maps which show the structure of these rocks, and of others underground, have been made before. These were mostly of small areas, and if larger areas were dealt with the maps were on a small scale. The present tectonic map, which measures about four by seven feet, is the first to show the geologic structure of a large part of the North American continent in considerable detail and on a reasonably large scale.

The tectonic map of the United States is the result of long planning and cooperative endeavor by American geologists and their organizations. It was compiled by the Committee on Tectonics of the National Research Council. The map was conceived when the committee was first organized in 1922, but actual work on it was not started until 1934, when Professor C. R. Longwell, of Yale University, assumed chairmanship of the committee. As organized by Dr. Longwell, the committee was a representative group of American geologists, including members from all parts of the country, and from the Federal Geological Survey, the state surveys, the universities and the petroleum industry.[2] The first compilation of copy was completed in 1940, and corrected copy was ready in 1941. War conditions slowed the final editing, drafting and printing. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists undertook to finance the publication and distribution, partly because of the great interest which the map holds for petroleum geologists and partly because other possible publishing organizations were engaged in wartime duties.

The tectonic map is based in part upon published sources and in part on material that had not hitherto been published. Among the published sources are the numerous maps issued by the Federal Geological Survey. A large amount of unpublished material was furnished by petroleum geologists. On the map, the structure of the gently tilted rocks of the central interior region and the eastern and southern coastal plains is represented by structure contour lines. To a large extent these contours are derived from data obtained in the drilling of numerous wells put down in the search for oil and gas. This material was assembled with the aid of committees of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and of the local societies of petroleum geologists.

A tectonic map is of more than academic interest. Geologists searching for ore deposits and petroleum must strive to open up new productive provinces as well as to extend the old ones. Local surface indications are by now thoroughly known, so that the approach is increasingly through the more subtle study of broad regional indications and conditions. Knowledge of the regional geologic structure is vital in such studies, and the tectonic map is a useful source for this information. Although the tectonic map was not conceived as either an economic or a war project, the wide use which has already been made of it in exploration for commodities needed in time of war is a source of satisfaction to all the members of the Committee on Tectonics.—PHILIP B. KING.[3]

[1] Inquiries regarding purchase of the map should be addressed to the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Box 979, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

[2] Members of the Committee on Tectonics are C. R. Longwell, *chairman*, P. B. King, *vice-chairman*, C. H. Behre, Jr., W. H. Bucher, Eugene Callaghan, D. F. Hewett, G. M. Kay, Mrs. E. B. Knopf, A. I. Levorsen, T. S. Lovering, G. R. Mansfield, W. H. Monroe, J. T. Pardee, R. D. Reed, G. W. Stose, W. T. Thom, Jr., A. C. Waters, E. D. Wilson and A. O. Woodford.

[3] Geologist, Geological Survey, U. S. Department of Interior; vice-chairman of the Committee on Tectonics, National Research Council. Published by permission of the director of the Geological Survey.