OBITUARY

MERTON B. WAITE

DR. MERTON B. WAITE, plant pathologist, retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, died at Garfield Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C., on June 5, 1945. He had been in good health up to the time of his death.

He was born in Oregon, Illinois, on January 23, 1865. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1887. He was assistant to Dr. Burrill for a year and went to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1888 as assistant pathologist in the Division of Vegetable Pathology, the forerunner of what is now the Fruit and Vegetable Disease Investigation Unit of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

He was in charge of this type of work up to the time of his retirement in 1935. His researches in this field are of outstanding importance to horticulture.

He was the first (1891) to prove the insect transmission of any plant disease, in this case the bacteria causing fire blight of pomaceous fruits. His paper describing the work was presented to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1891. This was about the same time that Theobald Smith and associates, 1891, proved the transmission of tick fever of cattle. These were the first demonstrations of insect or tick transmission of plant and animal diseases. These two pioneer demonstrations led to the work which proved that malaria and yellow fever were carried by mosquitoes and to the beginning of control of these and similar diseases. His work on cross pollination of fruit varieties led to the successful production of orchard crops of apple, pear, sweet cherry and other fruits.

Dr. Waite was lecturer on plant diseases in the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture from 1930 to 1938 and lecturer on plant ecology from 1932 to 1938.

He was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of agriculture by the University of Maryland in 1919. He was a charter member and twice president of the Botanical Society of Washington, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, charter member of the American Phytopathological Society and a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences. He is starred in plant pathology in "American Men of Science." He was one of the oldest living members of the Cosmos Club.

Dr. Waite is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hurdle Waite, and by two sons, Captain Malden Waite, tank and small arms instructor for the Army, and Captain Merton Waite, Army Medical Corps.

A. F. WOODS

RECENT DEATHS

DR. CHARLES WILLIAM DABNEY, president of the University of Cincinnati from 1904 to 1920, formerly state chemist of Tennessee, later state chemist of North Carolina and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, died on June 15 at the age of ninety years. Dr. Dabney was Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in the administration of President Cleveland.

DR. L. H. LEONIAN, professor of mycology at West Virginia University, died on June 7 at the age of fifty-seven years.

RICHARD S. MCCAFFERY, mining engineer, who was professor of mining and metallurgy at the University of Wisconsin from 1914 to 1941, died in New York City on June 13 at the age of seventy-one years.

CHARLES ERNEST PELLEW, Viscount of Exmouth and assistant professor of chemistry at Columbia University, died on June 7 at the age of eighty-two years.

THE death on June 2 at the age of seventy-nine years is announced of Dr. Shim Shirayama, professor emeritus of astronomy of Tokyo Imperial University, a member of the Imperial Academy.

IN the announcement sent to SCIENCE of the death in Yugoslavia of Lieutenant Wheeler, formerly of Harvard University, it was stated that he was assistant professor. This is incorrect. His title should have been given as associate professor.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PLANS OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR A NEW RESEARCH LABORATORY

A NEW building for the General Electric Company's Research Laboratory, which will afford some fifty per cent. more space than present facilities provide, will be erected at a cost of $8,000,000 near Schenectady, N. Y. Construction will begin as soon as WPB approval can be obtained.

The site has been a private estate known as "The Knolls," and includes 219 acres. It is in suburban Niskayuna, about four and a half miles from the main plant and offices in Schenectady. Overlooking the Mohawk River, it is on a rocky cliff which will afford an excellent and solid foundation for the laboratory buildings. The river at this point forms part of the New York State Barge Canal, and the Troy branch of the New York Central runs along the bank,