

that in gelatin every third amino acid could be glycine, every sixth proline, and every ninth hydroxyproline. This finding led him to postulate a systematic periodicity in the location of these amino acids in the peptide chain. With Niemann he extended the application of this concept to a wider series of amino acids in other proteins, and advanced the general hypothesis that the individual amino acids are situated in proteins in regularly recurrent orders dependent on periodicities the numerical values of which are multiples of powers of 2 and 3. Though later evidence suggests that this hypothesis represents an oversimplification, the basic idea has stimulated many useful studies, not the least of which has been the development in Bergmann's own laboratory of precise methods, novel in principle, for the analytical determination of amino acids for which no reliable procedures had previously been available.

Max Bergmann possessed in a high degree the capacity for forming and maintaining affectionate friendships. He was incapable of malice, and never displayed rancor towards those who had wrecked his career in his native land. He was gifted with an inextinguishable fund of quiet humor, he was invariably generous towards younger men and towards the scientific work of his colleagues, and his innate modesty was never clouded by his objective though unexpressed recognition of the value of his own achievements.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

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## DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ROBERT H. MACKNIGHT, research associate in biology at the University of Rochester, died on August 3. He was twenty-nine years old.

GEORGE WILLETT, since 1928 curator of ornithology at the Los Angeles County Museum, died on August 2 at the age of sixty-six years. He had been connected with the museum since 1927. He was vice-president of the American Ornithological Union and secretary of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Inc.

DR. E. HADORN, professor of zoology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, has written to Dr. Curt Stern, of the University of Rochester, that the following German zoologists have been killed in action: E. Ries, E. Becker and W. Köhler.

A TABLET to commemorate the work of the late Sir William Bragg, O.M., and of his son, Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg, presented by Mrs. Smithells, the widow of Professor Arthur Smithells, of the University of Leeds, was unveiled on July 20 by Professor R. Whiddington, F.R.S. The inscription on the tablet reads: "Near this place in the old Physics Laboratory in the year 1913 William Henry Bragg, Cavendish professor of physics in this university from 1909 to 1915, and his son, William Lawrence Bragg, began their joint researches and established with the first x-ray spectrometer the nature of x-ray spectra and the principles of crystal analysis for which they were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1915."

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### SCIENCE IN DENMARK AND NORWAY

THE scientific correspondent of *The Times*, London, reports that the Royal Society is taking a very active part in renewing the cordial relations which have by long tradition existed between men of science of Great Britain and of the lands recently liberated from Germany. In this connection Professor A. V. Hill has paid a visit to Denmark and Norway. *The Times* describes his visit as follows:

He went as the delegate of the society, to bear its greetings, to present to the academies of the two countries copies of all that the Royal Society has published since 1940, and to request the academies to be instrumental in distributing to scientific workers of their respective countries certain sums of money from a fund founded, in memory of Sir Horace Darwin, for the purchase of scientific instruments.

He received a most cordial and sincere welcome at Copenhagen and at Oslo, and has returned with the greatest admiration for the spirit that he found abroad, and

with high hopes for the future of Danish and Norwegian science.

Science in Denmark has not suffered as badly as in most countries occupied by the Germans. Until the autumn of 1943 the invaders were on their best behavior, but at that time the *Gestapo* became active and students ceased to attend the colleges. Professor Rehberg, the zoologist, was brutally mishandled by the Germans for lack of co-operation, and he and a good many other men of science were imprisoned, but escaped when the prison was very skillfully bombed by us. Research, however, continued in the laboratories which were not despoiled, and much excellent work has been published in the *Proceedings* of the academy.

Food is in good supply and the generous Danes have done and are doing sterling work in collecting food for Norway and Holland. Their chief scientific need is books and journals, and English text-books for students. To show how quickly the Danes have been able to establish themselves, they are contemplating an expedition next year for marine biological investigation, a subject in