paleontology and stratigraphy. Throughout her thirty-three years of teaching she remained on the fourth floor of Dalton Hall, geology slowly encroaching upon the storage space of the other departments. By the time Bryn Mawr built a new science building and geology moved to adequate quarters, Miss Bascom had retired.

As a teacher Miss Bascom put the maximum of material into her courses, and she required the maximum of effort on the part of her students. Geology is a dramatic subject, and it is easy to make it so exciting that large classes result. This was not Miss Bascom's way. She had so much respect for her subject and for real scholarship that she put into her teaching that earnestness of purpose that was always characteristic of her. The result was that her elementary class was always small, never numbering more than about thirty, but her advanced classes grew. Soon graduate students were coming to her from all parts of this country and from foreign countries as well, and her students went out to all parts of the world.

In 1896 Miss Bascom was appointed assistant on the U. S. Geological Survey. She later became geologist and was assigned that section of the Piedmont that lies in Maryland, Pennsylvania and part of New Jersey. For many years she spent her summers mapping the schists and gneisses of this area, studying thin sections of the rocks in such time as she had in the winter. It is an area of great complexity which her careful study has done much to clarify. After her retirement from teaching she carried on work on the area assigned, working first at Bryn Mawr and later in Washington. It is characteristic of her that when the universal stage became an adjunct of the petrographic microscope she mastered its use and restudied many of her slides. The results of her study of this area are comprised in her part of the U. S. Geological Survey Folios, Philadelphia (1909); Trenton (1909); Elkton-Wilmington (1920); and in two Bulletins, Quakerstown-Doylestown (1931); and Honeybrook-Phoenixville (1938).

In addition to her major work, Miss Bascom wrote numerous short papers, some of them in the field of geomorphology. She was greatly interested in gravels and collected them from many places. Her interest lay in studying thin sections and in trying to trace by this means the source of the gravel. Only one joint paper resulted from this line of study. In that she traced the source of the Pensauken gravel to the quartz nodules of the Kittatinny limestone. The senior author of the paper on the Pensauken gravel was Marius R. Campbell. The paper appeared in the *American Journal of Science* in 1933. Her entire bibliography comprises about forty titles.

She was the first woman to be elected fellow of the Geological Society of America. In 1924 she became a councilor and in 1930 vice-president of that society, the only woman who has ever held these offices. She was an editor of *The American Geologist;* a member of the National Academy, of the National Research Council, of the Geophysical Union and of many other scientific societies.

Miss Bascom was the last of a brilliant family; no near relatives survive her. She will be mourned by former students in many parts of the world who will miss her ever ready counsel and advice.

IDA H. OGILVIE

RECENT DEATHS

DR. EDWARD WILBER BERRY, since 1917 professor of paleontology at the Johns Hopkins University, dean from 1929 to 1942, died on September 20 at the age of seventy years.

DR. FREDERIC KING BUTTERS, professor of botany at the University of Minnesota, died on August 1 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. WILLIAM A. GROAT, until his retirement two years ago professor of clinical pathology at Syracuse University, for forty years connected with the College of Medicine, died on September 9. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. HERMAN M. PARTRIDGE, assistant professor of chemistry and director of broadcasts at New York University, died on September 16 at the age of forty-two years.

DR. HAMILTON BRADSHAW, assistant director, retired, of the department of chemistry of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, died on September 6 at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. CHARLES SPEARMAN, professor emeritus of psychology of the University of London, died on September 17 at the age of eighty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PUBLIC LANDS CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MINERALS

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S order prohibiting the sale of all public lands containing radioactive minerals, reads:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

(1) Subject to valid existing rights, all public lands of the United States, including Alaska, which contain

deposits of radioactive mineral substances, and all deposits of such substances, are hereby withdrawn from sale and all other forms of disposal under the public-land laws, including the mining laws, and reserved for use of the United States.

(2) So far as not in conflict with existing law, all lands in the United States, its territories or possessions, heretofore acquired by the United States which contain deposits of radioactive mineral substances owned by the United States are hereby reserved from sale, and all leases, licenses, or other authorizations of whatever kind hereafter granted to occupy or use such lands, shall reserve to the United States the right at any and all times to enter upon such lands, and mine and remove such mineral substances; and all such lands hereafter acquired by the United States shall become subject to provisions of this paragraph under their acquisition; Provided, that no reservation under this paragraph shall interfere with the use of the lands established or indicated by any Act of Congress.

THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS

WORD has been received by Herbert J. Wollner, secretary-in-charge of the New York Office of the United Nations Standards Committee, from the national standardizing bodies of China and France that they will attend the forthcoming meetings of the United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee to be held in New York during the week of October 8.

Invitations to attend the meeting have also been sent to the Standards Association of Australia, the Associacao Brasileira de Normas Tecnicas, the Canadian Standards Association, the British Standards Institution, the New Zealand Standards Institute, the South African Standards Institution and the American Standards Association. It is anticipated that representatives from practically all these countries will be in attendance.

The program of the meeting will include (1) discussion of whether the time is now ripe for setting up a permanent international standards organization; (2) a study of ways in which coordination of the standards of different countries can streamline international trade. This will be the first international meeting to be held since the United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee opened its doors a year ago to encourage cooperation between the allied belligerent countries in standardization matters as an aid to production of war supplies and equipment and also to pave the way for postwar trade.

Unhampered international trade establishes and cements friendly relations between people. One of the barriers to its fullest development arises from the differing manufacturing practices which exist in the importing and the exporting countries of the world. International questions have already arisen regarding moisture content of wool knitting yarns, radio interference, methods of testing textiles, standardization of food containers in the international shipment of relief supplies, etc.

A full program of the detailed discussions to be undertaken at the meeting will be announced at an early date. In a general way, however, it can be said that the meeting will concern itself with the immediate problem of establishing the closest practical relations between the national standardizing bodies of the countries of the world; with the providing a forum through which these bodies can harmonize their activities internationally, and finally the meeting will deal with the major problem of integrating national standards and harmonizing them for the benefit of the total economy of the world.

It is anticipated that each of the national delegations will be prepared to present its national point of view in the form of a program. It will be the endeavor of the committee to weld these into one single international program.

PLACEMENT OF VETERANS BY THE NATIONAL ROSTER OF SCIENTIFIC AND SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL

THE National Roster has established a cooperative arrangement with both the Army and the Navy to assist professionally qualified personnel being discharged from the armed forces to obtain suitable positions in civilian life. A supply of post-card forms has been made available at the separation centers, hospitals and other discharge points of both the Army and the Navy. Every serviceman who is professionally qualified and who is passing through one of the discharge points for separation is given one of these cards if he indicates he wants assistance in locating employment. It is suggested to him that he complete and mail the card, which is already addressed and requires no postage.

When the National Roster receives one of these cards, a check is made to determine if the applicant is already registered with the National Roster. If he is not registered, appropriate documents are sent him for completion. From his Roster registration documents there is prepared a summary of his training and experience, emphasizing particularly the work he is best qualified to do.

The National Roster now has on hand a large volume of orders for technical personnel from industrial establishments, colleges and universities and non-profit research laboratories throughout the country. Additional orders of this kind are being received daily.

The summaries of the training and experience of the applicants are checked against these orders and a copy of the summary for each applicant sent, if pos-