1919, and a summer in Venezuela in 1934. His studies touched eventually almost every country south of the United States, a first paper on the Canal Zone reaching publication in 1914 and the last several papers on fossil floras of South America, in 1945. As a teacher of general paleontology he was well informed outside his special field, this interest leading to several papers on fossil vertebrates, and several on the invertebrates, and ultimately to a textbook on general paleontology, published in 1929. Even in his busiest period as teacher and administrator, he found time to make at least a few contributions every year. It is a record few can achieve in any field.

As an individual Berry was a man of penetrating intelligence and personal charm, a fearless personality and an independent thinker, always a nonconformist and somewhat of a rebel. He had few pretensions to greatness—he preferred to be addressed as "Mister" and was known to rebuke those who persisted in calling him by other titles. His criticisms of those with whom he differed were often vigorous to the point of harshness, sometimes even unfair. Yet beneath this all he was really a kindly and amiable man.

As a university administrator his strong personality at times led him into disagreements with the faculty, with the student body, and with the sports-writers. The "degree-less dean," as the newspaper reporters were fond of calling him, was, however, a successful administrator.

As a scientist Berry was a resourceful and indefatigable worker, as the volume of his publications testifies. Perhaps owing to his newspaper experience, he wrote his manuscripts rapidly and apparently did little revising, a trait that at times betrayed him into unexpected obscurities of expression and faults of syntax. However, his writing was in general forceful and always interesting.

As a teacher he was vigorous, inspiring and generally provocative. He had strong convictions and maintained them stoutly, sometimes with caustic sarcasm. He taught his students to seek a solid foundation for their work, to refuse to accept too complacently the weight of authority, and to work out for themselves the answers to problems. One curious trait was his persistent discouragement of his students' taking up paleobotany as a professional field—he had only one student who, much against Berry's wish, became a paleobotanist. His thirty-odd years of teaching, however, have left a large body of men who look back with both respect and affection on their association with him.

There can be little doubt that Edward Wilber Berry was one of the outstanding scientists of his day. With his passing, geology, and particularly paleobotany, has lost a stalwart figure. Those who knew him have lost a very good friend.

JOHN B. REESIDE, JR.

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. MAURICE J. BABB, professor emeritus of mathematics of the University of Pennsylvania, died on October 24 at the age of seventy-five years.

PROFESSOR RODNEY B. HARVEY, for twenty-five years professor of plant physiology at the University of Minnesota, died on November 4 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. EUGENE COOK BINGHAM, research professor of chemistry at Lafayette College, died on November 6 at the age of fifty-six years.

DR. MARGARET BARCLAY WILSON, professor emeritus of the department of physiology and hygiene of Hunter College, New York City, died on October 8 at the age of eighty-two years.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports the death at Lwow, Poland, at the age of fifty-three years, of Professor Stefan Banach, the mathematician.

A PROGRAM honoring the memory of Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, on the fiftieth anniversary of his discovery of x-rays, was held on the evening of November 8 at the New York University College of Medicine.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

COMMITTEE ON THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE appointment of a "Committee on Growth," with membership designed to be broadly representative of the fields concerned in cancer research, both basic and clinical, has already been announced by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The committee was created, within the Division of Medical Sciences of the council, as a result of action by the American Cancer Society designating the academy as its scientific adviser for research.

The committee wishes to call the attention of interested investigators to the general outline of endeavor which it proposes to foster and the general principles by which it will be guided. The committee accepts the interpretation of its field of interest as including reliance on, contact with and support of research in the basic sciences bearing broadly on the whole phenomenon of growth.

The committee has adopted the following major principles by which, in so far as possible, it will be guided in its sponsorship of research and training programs:

(a) Desirability of long-term grants to projects of major importance.
(b) Grants, where possible, of such magnitude as to permit individual investigators to appoint associates for long-term training periods.
(c) Granting of fellowships to institutions for training of workers to acquire new techniques and wider experience.
(d) Maintenance of continuing individual contact with workers in field.
(e) Provision, on a participating basis, for continuing economic security for professional workers.
(f) Liberal attitude toward the investigator's work, his publication and reports.

To assist it in the fulfilment of its advisory functions the committee, on its part, will make free use of either *ad hoc* or standing sub-committees in specific fields of interest. Furthermore, it proposes to arrange conferences of competent groups for discussion of problems, for interchange of reports, etc.; to make surveys to analyze problems or to determine progress in areas of special interest pertaining to cancer; to evaluate, through study by sub-committees and by the main committee, basic and clinical research undertakings, and submit recommendations for support to the American Cancer Society; to initiate and plan broad or specific programs of basic and clinical research, through activities of the sub-committees and main committee, and to secure the cooperative efforts of investigators in the general undertakings.

The committee has established a central office in the Washington headquarters of the council, where information on all phases of cancer research will be assembled and from which reports may be distributed to interested investigators.

Many members of the committee have participated intensively in the broad programs of research conducted under the pressure of war. It is both the hope and the sanguine expectation of the committee that the fruitful pattern of cooperative investigations so successfully established during the war years can now be carried on, modified and tempered to existing needs, into the continuing war against disease.

Membership of the committee, as now constituted, includes the following: Dr. C. P. Rhoads, *Chairman;* Dr. Florence R. Sabin, *Secretary;* Dr. A. R. Dochez, Dr. A. Baird Hastings, Dr. Charles B. Huggins, Dr. Donald F. Jones, Dr. C. C. Little, Dr. Carl R. Moore, Dr. John J. Morton, Dr. James B. Murphy, Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass, Dr. Howard C. Taylor, Jr., Dr. M. A. Tuve and Dr. M. C. Winternitz.

PHILIP S. OWEN, M.D.
For the Committee on Growth,
Division of Medical Sciences,
National Research Council,
Washington 25, D. C.

APPEAL FOR THE DEFERMENT OF COLLEGE SCIENCE STUDENTS

AN appeal to President Harry S. Truman to reinstate a system of deferments for college science students on a national quota basis similar to a program abandoned in 1944 has been made by the presidents of eight colleges and universities.

The policy of a national quota was established by Selective Service in Bulletin 33-6 amended in January, 1944, and effective February 2, 1944. It established an overall quota for the nation of 10,000 students to be deferred "to meet civilian needs in war production and in support of the war effort." A National Roster was established which distributed the 10,000 deferments in engineering (6,775), physics (850), chemistry (2,250), and geology and geophysics (125). The order establishing the National Roster was rescinded less than two months after it had been established, in Selective Service Local Board Memorandum 115 issued in revised form on April 4, 1944.

The letter to President Truman reads as follows:

My dear Mr. President:

This letter is an appeal to you to reinstate the system of selective deferments for college students on a quota basis which was abandoned at the height of the war emergency. We believe this has now become a matter of imperative public policy in view of the serious and increasing shortages in the ranks of those who are in training for work in the interest of public safety and welfare.

Alone of all the allied nations the United States adopted the policy of drafting from the universities all able-bodied men regardless of the occupation for which they were training. In medicine pre-professional training was discontinued in June, 1944, and unless provision is made immediately for the deferment of pre-medical students, medical school entering students in 1946 will be approximately one-half or less of normal. Pre-dental students are in an even more serious situation and, as a matter of fact, the present freshman classes in dentistry this fall are less than one-third of normal. In osteopathy and in pharmacy the facts are similar. In engineering, the total enrollment for the country in 1944–1945 was only one-fifth of normal, and in classes above the freshman year only one-tenth of normal. In spite of the critical demand of continued and intensive research in physics and chemistry the number of doctor's degrees awarded in physics in 1945 was only 20% of those given in June, 1942, and in chemistry the situation is similar. In other fields such as agriculture, biology, geology and psychology, the numbers are smaller, but the facts are equally critical.

What we face is nothing short of an alarming dearth of talent in training in those fields in which the American people are most dependent for their public health, their industrial advancements and their scientific research. It must be remembered that it is now almost a whole college generation since the flow of young scientific and professional personnel began to be impeded. Each semester that the situation is allowed to continue the dislocations