to wide studies of gas discharges, but also to an extensive program of determination of transition probabilities of excited atoms. Often only relative probabilities could be found at first, but in a few cases absolute values were secured, and eventually it may be expected, through interlocking, all values may be put on an absolute basis.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say the whole work of Ornstein's laboratory involved in some way the measurement of light intensities or the use of a blackened photographic plate. From biology to engineering Ornstein's fertile mind found application and uses for the principles he had developed.

In a sense unknown in American universities Ornstein was "the Professor." Intimately acquainted with all that was going on in his institute, he was able to keep in touch with the work of every individual through the Dutch "coffee table" around which each day at 11 o'clock would gather "the Professor" and some 20 or 30 of the faculty, assistants and advanced graduate students. To this coffee table and to his institute, it was Professor Ornstein's pride and pleasure to welcome students who came from all over the world to learn at first hand the methods he had developed.

R. C. MASON

RECENT DEATHS

DR. CHARLES SANDERSON CATHCART, for thirty-seven years State chemist at the New Jersey Experiment Station at New Brunswick, N. J., died on December 9.

DR. THEODORE H. FRISON, since 1931 chief of the Illinois State Natural History Survey, died on December 9. He was fifty years old.

MYRON S. FALK, of Greenwich, Conn., a well-known civil engineer and author of standard text-books on the design of bridges, died on November 26. He was sixty-seven years old.

STANLEY H. ZIMMERMAN, fifty-five, plant manager of the Post Products Division of the General Foods Corporation, and since 1939 a member of the board of control of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, died on November 27.

DR. ALAN ESTIS FLOWERS, who, for the last twenty years was head of the research and development department of the De Laval Separator Company, died on December 4. He was sixty-nine years old.

THE death at the age of seventy-seven years is announced of Dr. Vladimir Leontievich Komaroff, the botanist, formerly president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. A state funeral was ordered for him.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SELECTIVE SERVICE

IT is reported in a United Press dispatch that the Selective Service recommended to local draft boards on November 29 that they defer registrants who are studying or teaching physical sciences or engineering as part of a plan to increase the country's scientific knowledge.

Acting on a request by John W. Snyder, reconversion director, Selective Service sent a memorandum to local boards to the effect that "the demands of long-range national interest require a resumption of advanced studies for men having high technical and scientific qualifications."

It recommended that the boards give "serious consideration" to the deferment of registrants who are doing the following things:

1. Taking advanced studies and working for a master's or doctor's degree in the physical sciences or engineering.
2. Teaching physical science or engineering in an accredited college or university.
3. Doing university research in the physical sciences or engineering.

The program is aimed at developing fully the technical skills which had been acquired and to provide adequate teaching facilities for returning veterans who desired to resume their studies in these fields.

A committee to carry out the program was formed by representatives from the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the War and Navy Departments, the Civilian Production Administration and other government agencies. Under the plan:

Registrants will be certified by the committee for deferment only if their work contributes "significantly" to the national interest, and if they can prove that research would be delayed by inability to carry on their work.

Registrants wishing to be certified must present a notarized statement of their intentions to the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion in Washington.

They also must present a statement signed by a "responsible" college or university official certifying that the registrant has been accepted as a candidate for an advanced degree, as a teacher, or as a research worker in physical sciences.

Any registrant who has completed at least three years of work leading to a bachelor's degree in science may be certified if he has served not less than two years in a project directly connected with the war effort.

The physical sciences are defined as including mathematics, physics and chemistry, and the engineering courses as including civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.