ton University, died on March 14 at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. FRANCIS PRESTON VENABLE, professor of chemistry emeritus at the University of North Carolina and president of the university from 1900 to 1914, died on March 18, in his seventy-eighth year.

DR. OMAR E. LOWMAN, a member of the department of chemistry at the Iowa State College for the last ten years, died on February 10 in his forty-eighth year.

W. D'ARCY RYAN, head of the illuminating laboratory of the General Electric Company, died on March 14, at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. FREDERIC SHEPARD DENNIS, professor emeritus of clinical surgery at the Cornell University Medical College, died on March 8. He was in his eighty-fourth year.

DR. ROGER S. MORRIS, head of the medical department of the College of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati, died on March 2 at the age of fifty-six years.

DR. DAVIDSON BLACK, professor of anatomy at the Peiping Union Medical College from 1919 to 1921, when he was appointed to the chair of anatomy and made honorary director of the Cenozoic research laboratory of the National Geological Survey in China, died on March 15, at the age of forty-nine years. He had been working in the laboratory of the Peiping Union Medical College of the Rockefeller Foundation.

PROFESSOR F. W. HARDWICK, emeritus professor of mining in the University of Sheffield, past-president of the Midland Institute of Mining, Civil and Mechanical Engineers, died on January 24, aged seventy-three years.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS LLEWELLYN GRIFFITH, professor emeritus of Egyptology at University College, London, died on March 14, at the age of seventy-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS AND PROGRESSIVE SCIENCE

THE following account of the service to science of the late King of the Belgians is given in *Nature:*

A great figure of the War has passed away with the death, on February 17, of Albert I, King of the Belgians, at the early age of fifty-eight years. For nearly twenty-five years he guided his people faithfully, carrying them with him through the War years, urging them on and directing their progress during the not less uncertain years following the Peace of Versailles. His work in the political field has been set forth in many places. We are concerned here with his interest in science and scientific research, of which he was a convincing advocate. He played an active part in the development of scientific institutions in Belgium. The protection of flora and fauna, particularly of tropical regions, early attracted his attention, and in 1909, after a visit to the Congo, he put forward a plea for protective measures which culminated with the creation, in 1929, of the Parc National Albert, a nature reserve of nearly 1,400 square miles. So recently as 1932, King Albert visited the Kivu Park with Professor V. Van Straelen in order to see for himself the effectiveness of the protective measures.

King Albert's name will also be associated with the "Fonds national de la recherche scientifique" in Belgium. Speaking at the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the well-known Cockerill iron and steel works at Seraing in the autumn of 1927, the king declared emphatically that pure science is indispensable to industry, and that the nation which neglects science and the savant is marked for decadence. The appeal had an immediate effect. A great gathering was held at the Palais des Académies, Brussels, which was attended by the king, ministers of state, and representatives of industry, finance, politics, science and the universities. Again King Albert made a powerful plea for science, poor herself but the creator of riches, for security and independence for scientific workers in order that they might devote themselves entirely to their studies; then he announced the creation of the "Fonds national," to which he invited industrial and financial interests to contribute. King Albert was well known in Great Britain, and on a recent visit, his enthusiasm for scientific research led him to spend an afternoon examining the treasures of the Royal Institution, after which he enjoyed a "laboratory" tea with Sir William Bragg and members of the staff, and watched some experiments with liquid air in illustration of the late Sir James Dewar's work.

EXPLORATION OF THE ANTARCTIC

A SPECIAL correspondent from London reports to the *Herald-Tribune* that a British expedition to the Antarctic will start next autumn, under the leadership of John R. Rymill, who was a member of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, to explore Graham Land and the waters around Luitpold Land and Charcot Land.

Sir Hubert Wilkins flew over this area in 1929. As a result of his reports it has been generally assumed that Graham Land is not a peninsula but an island, but visibility from the air in the Antarctic is very deceptive. According to the correspondent, Rymill thinks that there is still doubt as to whether Graham Land is an island, and it will be one of the objects of his expedition to clarify this point. It is also believed that there are two channels leading up through Luitpold Land, but owing to the difficulty