was welcomed. Reports also of several interesting experiments in curriculum were heard from New York educators.

Dr. H. F. Munro, president of the Canadian Education Association, told the luncheon meeting there was good reason to hope that it would be followed, at the association's biennial meeting in August, by an announcement of the establishment of a Canadian Council for Educational Research, and Mr. C. N. Crutchfield, general secretary of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, pledged the support of the national teachers' organization in the project.

A program on visual education included consideration of the museum as an aid in teaching, as well as the several varieties of projection apparatus that are coming into increasing use in the classroom. A representative of the National Film Society of Canada reported on the society's plans to assist educational authorities, and the Quebec Department of Education gave a demonstration of the use of films, with the assistance of the Associated Screen News of Montreal.

A session on organization and administrative problems in Canadian education included three descriptive papers dealing with Newfoundland, Protestant Quebec and rural Ontario, respectively. A fourth contribution analyzed the relationship of the Dominion Government to education, and a fifth set out a program of teacher-training in the use of visual aids. Two others were statistical studies, one on the sociological consequences of the organization of a large unit of rural administration in Manitoba, and the other summarizing the results of an exhaustive study of data on illiteracy from the decennial census.

Two joint sessions with the Section on Psychology were held, one on child study and pre-school education, the other on vocational selection and tests. The subject-matter of these discussions was less local in character and less concerned with the problems peculiar to Canadian education than in the case of the other sessions, though seven of the thirteen papers were of Canadian origin. Reference to these sessions is also made in the report of the Section on Psychology.

OBITUARY

FRANK LAMSON-SCRIBNER

FRANK LAMSON-SCRIBNER, who died on February 22, was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, on April 19, 1851. From the time of his earliest recollection he loved the "out of doors" and plants and flowers in particular. This love of nature grew as he grew and as he came to mature years dominated his life. His interests in natural history led him into the fields of higher education. After completing high school he entered the University of Maine, graduating with a B.S. in 1873. In 1920 his Alma Mater conferred upon him, for his distinguished service to science and to agriculture, the degree of LL.D. After completing his undergraduate work at the university he took up school teaching in Maine. In 1877 he was called to Girard College, Philadelphia, where he continued his interest in botany and horticulture in what was then the center of interest in those fields in the United States. He remained there and did notable work until 1885, when he came to the U. S. Department of Agriculture as assistant botanist. He received his appointment as the result of a competitive civil service examination. The department had been organized in 1862, but was just beginning to be recognizd as a promising scientific institution. The botanical work under Dr. George Vasey was soon enlarged to include plant diseases, and Lamson-Scribner became the first chief of that section. His work in that field 1886–1888 is still recognized as standard and as laying the foundations of the great developments that have followed.

As a result of his fine record he was called to the University of Tennessee as professor of botany and horticulture, 1888–1894. He was director of the Experiment Station from 1890 to 1894.

He was called back to the Department of Agriculture in 1894 as chief of a new division, "Agrostology," for the study of forage plants. He did excellent work in developing this field of agricultural science on a basis of practical value to farmers. In 1901 he was selected as chief of the Insular Bureau of Agriculture of the Philippines, where he remained for four years and built up an excellent organization adapted to handle the intricate problems of the agriculture of those islands. Expressions of appreciation of his great services came from the Philippine Government and people and from those in the United States charged with responsibility at that time. After completion of his work, 1904, in the Philippines he returned to the United States Department of Agriculture as special agent and agrostologist from 1904 to 1922.

It was in the early part of this period that he renewed his interests in exhibit work, which began at the history museum at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 1927–28. He had general charge of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, 1905; Jamestown Exposition, 1907; Alaska Yukon Exposition, 1909; Buenos Aires Centenary Exposition, 1910; U. S. Department of Agriculture, representative Turin Exposition, 1911; member of the U. S. Government Exposition Board, Pan Pacific Exposition, 1915; director of exhibits, U. S. Depart-

ment of State, Centennial Exposition Rio de Janeiro, 1922–1923; supervisor of U. S. exhibits, Sesquicentennial Exposition, 1926.

His advice and help in organizing the scientific exhibits for agriculture for the Century of Progress Exposition (Chicago, 1933–34) were much appreciated by the writer and by the officers of the exposition.

Dr. Scribner retired from active government service in 1922. He received special honor as Chevalier, Mérite agricole, 1889. He was a member of the New England Botanical Club, Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia; Buffalo Academy; and was the author of many publications dealing with various aspects of botany and agriculture.

He was an expert photographer and accumulated an invaluable photographic record of the many things of interest with which he came in contact. A recent paper on the Botanic Garden at Rio de Janeiro is illustrated with enlargements of some of these superb photographs. The article is the leading one in the January, 1938, number of *The Scientific Monthly*.

Dr. Lamson-Scribner was "going strong" for more than four score years. He was straight as an arrow, clear of vision and intellect, interested in his work of collecting and writing until the day of his death.

A. F. WOODS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ERNEST WILLIAM BROWN, Josiah Willard Gibbs professor of mathematics emeritus at Yale University, died on July 22 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. JACOB KUNZ, professor of mathematical physics at the University of Illinois, died on July 18 at the age of sixty-four years.

DR. LOUIS K. OPPITZ, professor of physics at McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., died on July 8 at the age of sixty years.

ARTHUR W. COWLES, who until his retirement last January had been for forty-two years connected with the United States Patent Office, for the last twenty-six years as chief, died on July 21 at the age of seventy-eight years.

A BRONZE plaque in memory of Professor F. B. Peck, formerly head of the department of geology of Lafayette College, was unveiled recently in Markle Hall. The presentation was made by Dr. L. L. Smith, one of Professor Peck's former students, now head of the department of geology at the University of South Carolina. Dr. William S. Hall, emeritus professor of mathematics, read a eulogy, and President Lewis accepted the plaque for the college. The inscription is as follows: "Frederick Burritt Peck, professor of geology, 1897–1925; eminent geologist, inspiring teacher, sympathetic counsellor, exemplary gentleman and lovable character. Erected by his students."

Nature states that the tercentenary celebrations of the birth of James Gregory began at the Royal Society, Edinburgh, on July 4, when papers by Professors H. W. Turnbull, F. Enriques, M. Dehn, E. Hellinger and Dr. O. Prag were presented on his mathematical work. On July 5 a special graduation at the University of St. Andrews was held in the Upper Library Hall, where Gregory had worked and made astronomical observations. Honorary degrees were conferred on Professors G. D. Birkhoff, of Harvard University; A. W. Conway, of University College, Dublin; O. Neugebauer, of the University of Copenhagen; R. Weitzenböck, of the University of Amsterdam, and (*in absentia*) V. Volterra, of the University of Rome. Addresses were received from the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, the London Mathematical Society, the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the Universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge, Paris and from others. An exhibition of books and scientific instruments associated with James Gregory was arranged in the Parliament Hall, Library Buildings, St. Andrews.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

UPPER-AIR SOUNDINGS

THE radiometeorograph will replace the airplane in making upper-air soundings at six Weather Bureau stations next month.

At Nashville, Tenn.; Sault Sainte Marie, Mich.; Omaha, Nebr.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Fargo, N. Dak., and Oakland, Calif., the instrument will be carried aloft each morning by a small balloon inflated with helium. The response of weather-sensitive elements in the observatory end of the instrument to changes in the surrounding atmosphere causes the miniature wireless station to send out sound signals. From their audio frequency, these signals, received at a ground station, can be translated into terms of temperature, pressure and humidity of the air at all heights reached by the robot weather observer.

"Regular use of the radiometeorograph," according to Dr. W. R. Gregg, "marks the beginning of a new epoch in meteorological service." Until upper air data became available, forecasts depended mainly on ground observations of the distribution and movement of air masses. This system finally reached its limit