

R. Squibb and Sons, formerly instructor in chemistry at Rutgers University, will be associate in charge of the Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory.

#### THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE semi-centennial meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, on December 28, 29 and 30.

According to the preliminary program, Dr. Arthur L. Day, the retiring president, will deliver his address on Thursday evening. This will be followed by a complimentary smoker. On Friday there will be given a special anniversary day program by leading representatives in several major fields of geology.

With this year, the Geological Society of America will complete a fifty-year period of service in geologic science. It was formally organized at Ithaca, New York, in December, 1888, on call of a Special Committee on Organization, composed of Alexander Winchell (chairman), John J. Stevenson (secretary), Charles H. Hitchcock, John R. Procter and Edward Orton. The first meeting, held in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section E, was attended by thirteen men, only one of whom, Professor Herman LeRoy Fairchild, of Rochester, is still living. This first meeting was called with a pledged membership of 112 men, who became known thereafter as original fellows. The first election resulted in the addition of 14 fellows. Out of this total number, 6 original fellows and 1 elected fellow are still living.

Now, after fifty years, the society has a membership of 700, all but a handful of whom have come into the organization since those early days; and it has seemed appropriate, therefore, to pause at the end of a period which has seen remarkable development in many ways and take stock of accomplishment and responsibilities. To this end, special observance is planned at the annual meeting of 1938.

The quarter-centennial of the society was observed in Princeton in December, 1913. A part of the opening session of the annual meeting of that year was devoted to a symposium on the work of the society, and opportunity was made at the annual dinner for the story of the initiation of the society. The membership at that time was 380. One hundred and thirty fellows attended the quarter-centennial meeting, the total registration being 265.

The Geological Society, as has long been the custom, invites the Paleontological Society and the Mineralogical Society of America to hold annual meetings also at this time and take part in other activities. The Society of Economic Geologists will be represented and will hold a luncheon. The Seismological Society

of America also has been invited to hold scientific sessions at this time. Special meetings are also being arranged for the Section of Vertebrate Paleontologists.

In connection with the meeting the following excursions are planned:

- Excursion 1. Glacial and Tertiary Geology, Staten Island and New Jersey. Leader, Dr. Meredith Johnson.
- Excursion 2. Engineering Geology in the Vicinity of New York. Leaders, Dr. Charles P. Berkey, James F. Sanborn and Thomas Fluhr.
- Excursion 3. Geology of the Palisades. Leader, Dr. S. James Shand.
- Excursion 4. Airplane Trip over Manhattan Island and Vicinity. Leader, Dr. Girard Wheeler.

#### RECENT DEATHS

GUY N. COLLINS, principal botanist in charge of the Division of Genetics and Biophysics of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 14 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ABRAM T. KERR, professor of anatomy at Cornell University, died on August 15 at the age of sixty-five years. He had been connected with the university since 1900.

DR. EDWIN BEER, who retired last March as chief of the urological service at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City, died on August 13 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. G. M. JOHNSTONE MACKAY, director of research at the Stamford, Conn., laboratories of the American Cyanamid Company, died on July 29 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. JAN CONSTANTIJN COSTERUS, formerly director of the Technical School at Amsterdam, died on July 31 at the age of eighty-nine years. Dr. Costerus is known for the long series of articles he published on plant-teratology, in part with Dr. J. J. Smith.

THE death at the age of sixty-five years is announced of Dr. Leo Frobenius, director of the Institute for the Study of Morphology of Civilization in Frankfurt-on-Main. Dr. Frobenius led twelve expeditions to Africa. The Frobenius collection at the institute comprises more than 3,500 facsimiles of prehistoric rock paintings and engravings. Dr. Frobenius visited New York last year to attend the opening of an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art of 200 prehistoric cave drawings from his collection.

*Nature* records the death on June 19 of the Rev. Dr. W. C. Willoughby, of Birmingham, an authority on the Bantu of South Africa, at the age of eighty-one years, and of Captain F. S. Barnwell, chief designer of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, a pioneer in British aviation, on August 2, aged fifty-eight years.