number of excellent scientific papers in such journals as SCIENCE, *Journal of Nutrition, Poultry Science* and the Experiment Station bulletin series of the Kentucky and Arkansas Stations.

Lyons possessed a keen analytical mind and a deep devotion to research. Although teaching ten hours a week at the time of his death, the head of his department stated that he was actually conducting more research than many other men with no teaching duties to distract them. He worshipped truth and detested inaccuracy and error. He conquered the obstacles that were in his way and forged on toward the goal he had set for himself. He was thorough, energetic, conscientious and dependable. He set a splendid example for his colleagues and students which was a constant challenge to them to serve science with the same loyalty he had shown.

Lyons graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1932 with the degree of B.S. in Agriculture. In 1934 he received his M.S. at Iowa State College, where he served as research fellow in animal nutrition. He served the Kentucky Experiment Station as research assistant for more than two years and the Arkansas Station for a year and a half. In the 1938 summer-term he completed the residence and course requirements at Iowa for the doctor's degree, which he would have received during the present academic year after writing his thesis, the experimental work for which had been completed.

Lyons was greatly admired by all who knew him, and he leaves a host of friends who share the loss with his bereaved family. He is survived by his wife, an eighteen-months-old daughter, his parents and two sisters.

J. HOLMES MARTIN
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

YNES MEXIA

YNES MEXIA'S death on July 12, in Berkeley, California, closed a career as a botanical collector of note. Born in Washington, D. C., May 24, 1870, during the residence of her father, General Enrique A. Mexia, there on official status from Mexico, she spent the early half of her life in the United States and Mexico, making San Francisco her home for the last thirty years. Always interested in plants, she began actively collecting in 1922 in Mexico. She usually went to remote places, however difficult to reach, the Pongo de Manseriche by raft and canoe, eastern Ecuador by pack oxen, eastern Oaxaca afoot. She prepared her specimens carefully and gave abundant notes. She collected approximately 9,300 numbers, from 140,000 to 150,000 specimens and over 500 new species, the last collection being yet unidentified. Many new species and one new genus were named in her honor.

A list of her expeditions with approximate numbers follows: 1922 Mexico; 1925 Mexico, 500 numbers, 3,500 specimens; 1926–27 Mexico, 1,600 and 33,000; 1928 Alaska, 365 and 6,100; 1929 Mexico, 315 and 5,000; 1929–32 Brazil-Peru, 3,200 and 65,000; 1934–37 South America from Ecuador to Tierra del Fuego, 2,200 and 19,900; 1937–38 Mexico, 700 and 13,000.

The most complete set of her plants is in the herbarium of the University of California; also complete records of her trips and collections.

N. FLOY BRACELIN

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

WILLIAM BAKER DAY, since 1919 dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois, died on December 10. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. GEORGE VAN NESS DEARBORN, chief of the Department of Medical Psychology of the U. S. Veterans Administration, has died at the age of sixty-nine years.

DR. JOSEPH A. HILL, for more than forty years a statistician with the Bureau of the Census, died on December 12. He was seventy-eight years old.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "News has been received of the death at the age of thirty-one years of L. G. Schnirelman, professor of mathematics at the University of Moscow and a member of the Mathematical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Schnirelman had made first-rate contributions in widely separated branches of mathematics (topology, the calculus of variations, number theory). No branch of science has reached a higher distinction in the U.S.S.R. than mathematics, and the deceased was one of its strongest and most original mathematicians."

THE U. S. Board on Geographical Names has named a mountain 9,900 feet high in Yellowstone National Park Mount Hornaday in honor of the late Dr. William T. Hornaday, until his retirement in 1926 director of the New York Zoological Park. Mount Hornaday is on the divide at the head of Plateau Creek and is visible from the northeast park entrance road.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PROPOSED CANCER SERVICE IN GREAT BRITAIN

A BILL embodying a new plan for securing earlier and more effective treatment of cancer involving the establishment of a cancer service which will make the best modern facilities for diagnosis and treatment available in every part of the country has been formally introduced in the British House of Commons.

According to the London *Times* the government has decided to place on county and county borough coun-

cils, either singly or in regional groups, the duty of securing adequate facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from cancer. It is estimated that at present only one case in four which might hopefully be treated by modern methods is so treated.

These major local authorities will be required to submit their arrangements for the minister's approval within a reasonable time. Before doing so they will consult the Radium Commission and representatives of the voluntary hospitals and the medical practitioners in each locality. It is proposed to have diagnostic centers at which expert clinical advice on a team basis will be available to all. In general these centers will be in the large towns, and patients will come to them from the surrounding areas. Facilities for treatment will be provided in voluntary hospitals, whose services it is hoped to utilize to the utmost, or in hospitals under the control of local authorities. The government intends to bring the most modern methods of treatment, whether by surgery, radium or deep x-rays —alone or in combination—within the reach of every sufferer. This will mean the provision of additional facilities for treatment at appropriate local centers, both by developing existing centers and providing new ones.

It is estimated that when the service is in full operation the total additional expenditure will amount to about £600,000 a year for England and Wales and £100,000 for Scotland. In meeting this expenditure local authorities will be assisted by exchequer grants which will be approximately equivalent to 50 per cent. of the additional cost incurred. But the grant will be made according to the "weighted population" formula, and the 50 per cent. will be scaled up or down according to the needs of the area. In some of the poorest areas the exchequer grant will amount to 80 per cent. It will probably take four or five years before the cost of the service reaches £700,000 a year. At first there may be some scarcity of the skilled workers needed.

The bill enables the Minister to lend up to £500,000 to the National Radium Trust for the purchase of radium and other radio-active substances and of equipment for radio-therapeutic treatment. The trust has already arranged an option for a substantial purchase of radium from Canada at a fixed price over the next five years. The bill will prohibit the dissemination of advertisements for "cancer cures" to the lay public.

COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION ON THE SOCIAL RELATIONS OF SCIENCE

As has been stated in SCIENCE, at the recent meeting in Cambridge of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, there was formed a committee on the Division for the Social and International Relations of Science. The committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Gregory, includes the president and general officers of the association *ex officio* and

Sir Daniel Hall, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Sir John Russell and Lord Stamp (*vice-chairmen*), Professor F. C. Bartlett, Professor J. D. Bernal, Professor P. M. S. Blackett, Mr. Ritchie Calder, Mr. A. M. Carr-Saunders, Professor S. Chapman, Dr. C. H. Desch, Professor A. C. G. Egerton, Professor H. J. Fleure, Mr. E. W. Gilbert, Professor N. F. Hall, Mr. R. F. Harrod, Professor A. V. Hill, Sir Clement Hindley, Professor L. Hogben, Dr. L. E. C. Hughes, Dr. J. S. Huxley, Mr. D. Caradog Jones, Professor H. Levy, Dr. C. S. Myers, Mr. Max Nicholson, Sir John Orr, Professor J. C. Philip, Professor J. G. Smith, Professor R. G. Stapledon, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Professor F. E. Weiss, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. J. S. Wilson and Dr. S. Zuckerman.

The London *Times* states that a circular has been prepared for issue to institutions at home and abroad, indicating the main purposes of the division as "the objective study of the effects of advances in science on communities, and reciprocally the effects of social conditions upon the progress of science; and the encouragement of the application of science to promote the well-being of society." The committee is empowered to arrange meetings of the division, to coordinate work dealing with the social relations of science, both at home and abroad, to be prepared to act in a consultative capacity and to supply information to organizations, individuals and the public, to initiate and carry out inquiries and research and to secure their publication.

Two of the most important functions of the division will be to coordinate the large amount of work which has already been done or undertaken by numerous existing organizations, and to make the best use of the association's platform to bring the results of such work before the public. It is hoped to cooperate with the International Council of Scientific Unions, which has already set up a Committee on Science and its Social Relations with a view to preparing a report of world-wide scope.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

A RECENT issue of SCIENCE[1] contained the announcement of the 1939 publication plan for *Biological Abstracts*. Under this plan there is to be a breakdown into five parts according to subject-matter, ranging in cost from $4.00 to $9.00, with $25.00 the charge for all parts brought under one cover.

During the next year, as during the current one, it is hoped that societies will continue their contribution of $2.00 a member toward the support of *Biological Abstracts*. It is highly desirable that this support be given during the transition period to the new plan, which has won well-nigh universal approval. For the present year five societies took such action, while sev-

[1] SCIENCE, 88: 294, 1938.