

rector of the Missouri State Bureau of Geology and Mines at Rolla, died on March 14 in his sixty-eighth year.

SIR DAVID PRAIN, from 1905 to 1922 director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, died on March 17 at the age of eighty-six years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ALABAMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE Alabama Research Institute was organized as the result of a year's study by a committee of Alabama citizens appointed in 1940 by the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce. Benjamin Russell, the chairman, submitted the report of the committee to the Chamber of Commerce on October 9, 1941. This report concluded:

That Alabama could no longer afford to sit idly by and permit its vast variety of materials to remain in their present unutilized and unprofitable condition; but instead that Alabama should through scientific research do that which is necessary to bring these materials into profitable use for the comfort and enrichment of the people of our state, as so many other states in our Union are now doing.

Your committee therefore, after unanimously reaching the conclusion that here in Alabama we should have an organization primarily engaged in research work, has drafted a constitution and by-laws for such an agency and adopted as its name Alabama Research Institute.

Alabama Research Institute, in addition to its regular function as a research organization, will act as a coordinating agency in research undertakings, with the University of Alabama, Alabama Polytechnic Institute and other state institutions, and private and corporate organizations in Alabama, covering a broad field as is provided in its constitution. . . .

For the general advancement of our state the Alabama Research Institute needs, and your committee believes will have, the active support of the people of Alabama.

Shortly afterwards the institute was organized as a non-profit corporation.

As now planned, the organization will function in a manner not unlike that of other successful research institutions of similar character; several of which were originally organized and endowed by a few individuals who felt that the field of research should be extended or enlarged. The present approach is on that principle—except that many individuals and business concerns are invited to supply the capital. It is intended that there shall be available within the state a well-equipped laboratory, a comprehensive technical library and scientific personnel for general research purposes.

Initially the institute will be financed almost wholly from subscriptions from business and from individuals. These subscriptions are to be used solely for the purpose of implementing the institute as a going business concern, for the introduction of certain researches on Alabama raw materials, to employ a competent research director and staff, to buy equipment, apparatus

and supplies, to obtain and accumulate a technical library, to pay rent for a place for housing the institute and for general overhead and administrative expense. After it has been in operation for a few years, it is hoped that it will be self-sustaining from fees paid by private industry for special research programs and from royalties and profits from patents and discoveries developed by the institute from research in its own behalf.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

A REVIEW of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1943 is given in the annual report of Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick, president of the foundation, which has just been issued. During 1943 the appropriations amounted to \$7,760,186. The income from investments during the year was \$8,079,164. The appropriations were distributed for the most part in six major fields, roughly as follows:

Public health	\$2,450,000
Medical sciences	1,529,000
Natural sciences	599,000
Social sciences	1,068,000
Humanities	1,055,000
Program in China	108,000

Of the money appropriated during the year, 69 per cent. was for work in the United States and 31 per cent. for work in other countries.

In discussing a report from its representatives in Rio de Janeiro that gambiae mosquitoes, some of them alive, had been found in planes coming from Acera and Dakar in Africa to Natal and that five live gambiae had been discovered in dwellings near the Natal airport, the report points out that though the situation is now in hand, it poses a problem of larger significance which can not be evaded.

Around the ports of Africa and deep within the hinterland lie the breeding centers of the gambiae. The safety of the Western Hemisphere, which is now within a few hours' flight across a narrow ocean, can no longer be left to the uncertainties of a flit-gun campaign. Modern airplane travel has made old methods and ideas of quarantine completely obsolete. If the Americas are adequately to be protected, the breeding places of gambiae, wherever in Africa or elsewhere they may be found, must be eradicated. The campaign must be carried to the sources of infestation. It can no longer be defensive; it must be offensive.

But the problem, of course, is far broader than gambiae.