

and chief of the department of anesthetics at the New York Hospital, died on May 11 at the age of thirty-two years.

DR. STANLEY WELLS KEMP, since 1936 director of the Plymouth Laboratories, England, secretary of the

Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, died on May 16. He was sixty-four years old.

DR. HAROLD HIBBERT, professor of industrial and cellulose chemistry at McGill University, who retired in 1943, died on May 4 at the age of sixty-seven years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ACTIVITY OF PARICUTIN VOLCANO

DURING March, the effusive activity of Paricutin diminished while the explosive activity increased in intensity. All the lava vents close to the western base of the cone that were active during February died early in March. Of the two principal ones, that which opened on January 12 was extinguished on March 5, by which time a narrow, branching stream had extended northward for almost a mile. The other main vent in that vicinity, which opened on February 4, continued to discharge lava until approximately March 10. It sent a longer stream northward that first cascaded down steep slopes and then buried most of Paricutin Village not already inundated by the flows of 1943 and 1944. The "Aguan vent," which opened at the south base of the cone on or about November 10, 1944, continued to emit lava throughout March, though in diminishing amount. At the vent itself no fresh lava could be seen, only an active hornito shaped like a beehive. Apparently the lava, after flowing for half a mile through a concealed tunnel close to the southeast foot of the cone, broke through its crust and set out many new tongues that spread over the earlier already solidified Aguan lava to the east of the cone. One of these new tongues was injected beneath and thus upheaved the heavily ash-laden lava erupted from the parasitic cone of Zapicho in 1943. Such sill-like injections of new into old lavas have been a recurrent phenomenon at Paricutin.

Meanwhile the explosive activity of the main cone has been unusually intense. Indeed, during the latter part of March the pall of ash was so heavy and the mantle of newly fallen material was so stirred by winds that for most of the daylight hours the cone was completely hidden from view. At night, when the winds subsided, the flanks of the cone were brilliantly lit by showers of glowing bombs.

No new lava vent has opened at Paricutin since February 4; whether or not this crescendo of explosive activity heralds a new effusion remains to be seen. When the cone was last climbed, on March 5, it contained a single, deep, runnel-shaped crater within which were two small, more or less cylindrical pipes, one of which was lined with incandescent magma.

COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH
COUNCIL ON THE STUDY OF THE
PARICUTIN VOLCANO

THE BAUSCH AND LOMB OPTICAL LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MEMBERS of the optical manufacturing industry have collaborated in recent months to bring up to date the Adolph Lomb Optical Library at the University of Virginia. When this collection on the science of optics was placed at the university, no provision was made for purchase of works published currently in that field of learning. Consequently the passage of twelve years found the library deficient in certain important aspects in which research has made advances. When this situation was brought to the attention of the optical industry, the following firms joined in establishing a fund of \$1,100 with which to purchase the most significant recent publications for addition to the library: the Anchor Optical Corporation, New York City; Applied Optical Industries, New York City; Bonschur and Holmes Optical Company, Philadelphia; Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, Toledo; the May Oil Burner Corporation, Baltimore; Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company; Zenith Optical Company, Huntington; and Richard B. Tucker, '06, vice-president, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Pittsburgh. Now that provision has been made for bringing the collection up to date, a movement is under way in the industry to establish a modest fiduciary fund, the income of which will be used to purchase books and thus ensure the continuance of the library as the outstanding collection in its field of science. Companies or individuals wishing to have a part in this movement are advised to communicate with Dr. Harry Clemons, librarian, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

A catalogue of the library is now in process of publication for complimentary distribution among the members of the industry who have participated in this service. The catalogue will carry an introduction by Dr. James P. C. Southall, for many years professor of physics at Columbia University.

PITTSBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A REGIONAL society "to advance and disseminate geologic knowledge, and to provide a forum for geological problems" has been organized at Pittsburgh under the name of the Pittsburgh Geological Society. The first meeting was held on October 27, 1944. Details of organization have been worked out at the five