for use in general courses in universities and colleges throughout the United States, and was one of the first modern text-books of botany. Unlike the vast majority of scientific text-books, it had a distinctive style and literary merit; in addition, it was a masterly presentation of the whole field of botany. His third book, "A Guide to the Trees," was first published in 1925; it also has gone through numerous printings and has been very extensively used. It was intended as a scientifically accurate guide to the trees of northeastern North America, written in language that an intelligent person without specialized training could understand, and it has served its purpose well. The illustrations were made by Mrs. Curtis. In this book Dr. Curtis demonstrated that, although he was originally a plant physiologist, he could write authoritatively and effectively on the flora of eastern North America. The teaching herbarium of Columbia University, which he assembled largely with his own hands, is further testimony to his taxonomic ability.

Although Professor Curtis attained eminence as a scientist and as an author, his outstanding achievement was his supreme competence as a teacher. He taught the large general course in elementary botany through his long years of service at Columbia University; he gave graduate work in plant morphology; he offered a course on trees and timbers to engineering students, and another on algae in Columbia College. Dr. Curtis was an inspiring teacher, partly because of his very wide training in his chosen field, partly because of his unusual command of English and partly because he combined a forceful and engaging personality with a sympathetic understanding of human nature.

In his earlier life Dr. Curtis was a man of buoyant disposition and genial manner, sparked by a keen sense of humor. In his later years he was still the witty, animated, gifted conversationalist, with an almost endless fund of true stories, based largely on his own experiences. He had traveled widely, had been very fond of camping, fishing and hunting, and had spent most of his spare hours a little beyond the end of the trail. He kept records of plants and birds in the field, of their adaptations and their habits. With his many years of careful observation and training, he was an accomplished naturalist with a deep understanding and appreciation of plant and animal life.

Dr. Curtis, furthermore, was a sensitive, poetic, innately religious man, "old-fashioned" in his convictions of right and wrong and completely and forcefully outspoken in his defense of the right, regardless of the consequences. Such men do not carry on in an imperfect world without considerable internal suffering.

Fortunately he spent more than a decade in idyllic retirement; his wife, Ellison Gwyn Curtis, shared with him his philosophy, his love of good literature, his interest in plants and birds and his fondness for camping and fishing.

His was the consummate satisfaction of a long and fruitful life, well lived; his is the enduring memorial which a real teacher cherishes—to be enshrined in the hearts of his students as one who quickened the mind and passed on the light. Professor Curtis was in truth a man with a soul.

EDWIN B. MATZKE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

THE following messages in regard to the death on October 1 of Dr. Walter B. Cannon, emeritus professor of physiology of the Harvard Medical School, have been addressed to the president of the National Academy of Sciences and to its officers:

The Academy of Sciences of USSR deeply mourns the untimely death of its honorary member Walter Cannon and begs you to transmit to American scientists the sincerest condolences of Soviet scientists.

SERGHEI VAVILOV, *President,*
Academy of Sciences of USSR

On behalf of Royal Society London we join you in sorrow for death of your Foreign Secretary and our Foreign Member Walter Cannon and pay tribute to his work for international community of science.

DALE, *President*
TIZARD, *Foreign Secretary*

WILLIAM ELTON MOTT, director, retired, of the College of Engineering of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, died on October 5 at the age of seventy-seven years.

WILBUR J. SUMPSTINE, assistant professor of biology at Bethany College, died on September 30 at the age of forty-one years.

DR. GEORGE HENRY ROBINSON, since 1924 bacteriologist and immunologist to the Wm. H. Singer Research Laboratory of the Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, died on September 29 at the age of fifty-six years.

TRIBUTES were paid this month by the Michigan College of Mining and Technology at a college assembly, over the radio, and before civic groups, to the memory of Dr. Douglass Houghton, first state geologist of Michigan and versatile pioneer in many fields of endeavor. October 13, 1945, was the hundredth anniversary of Dr. Houghton's death. He was drowned in Lake Superior, off Eagle River, while engaged in a geological, mineralogical, topographical and magnetic survey of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN GERMANY

DIRECTOR CARLILE P. WINSLOW and eight staff members of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory are in Germany investigating industrial and technical secrets of its forest products industries.

Director Winslow and D. G. Coleman of the laboratory staff are representing a forest products subcommittee of the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee organized by the Foreign Economic Administration, War and Navy Departments, Office of Strategic Services, War Production Board and Department of Agriculture. George W. Trayer, chief of the Division of Forest Products, Forest Service, Washington, D. C., is chairman of the subcommittee. The headquarters of the investigators is London.

Other Forest Products Laboratory staff men carrying on research in Germany are R. M. Seborg, J. N. McGovern, H. O. Fleischer and J. F. Saeman, chemists; Joseph A. Liska, engineer; and Fred F. Wangaard, technologist. Working with the laboratory investigators are G. K. Dickerman, technical director of the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Co., Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; Fred W. Gottschalk, director of research of the American Lumber and Treating Co., Chicago; E. G. Locke, chemical engineer of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Portland, Ore.; and J. H. Tigelaar, director of research, Haskolite Manufacturing Corp., Grand Rapids, Mich. C. V. Sweet, of the laboratory staff, who participated with Director Winslow in the early part of the investigation, is now returning to this country.

The investigators, who have been in Germany since June, are investigating cellulose products, wood sugar, ethyl alcohol, feeding yeast and other products of wood that have supplied her war machine during the past five years, and new methods of lignin utilization, wood treatment, timber construction, and seasoning and preservation of wood.

It has long been known—in fact, Nazis such as Reichsmarshal Herman Goering openly boasted—that Germany depended heavily upon her forests for many of the war materials.

Although reports are not yet available, early statements indicate that information of greater value than at first expected is being obtained. For example, the Germans are said to have produced a nitrocellulose for explosive from low-grade sulfate wood pulps that has superior stability qualities. New and improved techniques in the production of ethyl alcohol and other products of wood sugars have also been reported. About two hundred Nazi-controlled plants, research institutions and leaders of German science are the objectives of the investigators.

While the primary purpose of the investigations was to obtain information of value during the war, it is expected that much of it will be useful to American industry during peacetime. As rapidly as reports can be prepared the technical findings will be distributed to United States agencies and industries which can apply them to production in this country.

The forest products subcommittee is one of a number of committees that are investigating various industrial developments in Germany.

GIFT OF THE CHARLES A. BROWNE COLLECTION TO THE EDGAR FAHS SMITH LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

DR. CHARLES A. BROWNE, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has presented a collection of rare books, manuscripts, portrait prints and other chemical memorabilia to the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Library of the University of Pennsylvania. The gift is in memory of his parents, Charles Albert Browne, Sr., and Susan McCallum Browne.

The material, which is the result of years of search by a discriminating collector, relates essentially to the historical development of the science of chemistry from alchemy to modern science. Approximately five hundred items are included. The volumes range in date from 1542 to the present. Many are extremely rare and are lacking in the Library of Congress and other libraries in the United States. Included is an outstanding collection of the works of Frederick Accum (1769–1838); also rare Paracelsus and Robert Boyle items, and the works of numerous foreign and early American chemists. Among the letters are those of John Dalton, Robert Hare, Count Rumford, Michael Faraday, Wolcott Gibbs, Benjamin Silliman and others. Many valuable engravings are included.

The Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection, outstanding in the field of the history of chemistry, is greatly enriched by Dr. Browne's gift. The value of such a collection to teachers and research workers is self-evident. The generous endowment provided for the E. F. Smith Collection by Mrs. Margie A. Smith ensures its maintenance and growth. Its services are available to scholars everywhere and include reference data, photostat and microfilm material.

Dr. Browne writes: "I hope my donation will help promote the cultural and humanistic values of chemistry which were the ideals Dr. Smith always emphasized. It is my hope that the Smith Memorial Collec-