13, 1863, a son of a professor of Moscow University, and educated first in that city and later at St. Petersburg University, from which he was graduated in 1886. He was appointed a docent of mineralogy of Moscow University in 1890 and received his master's degree in 1891. In 1897 he was awarded a Ph.D. degree for his thesis, "The Phenomena of Gliding Planes in Crystalline Substances." He soon won fame for his classical research on silicates. One of his most important works on that subject is: *"Sur le groupe de la sillimanite et le rôle de l'alumine dans les silicates"* (1892).

Being a brilliant lecturer and educator he reformed the teaching of mineralogy in Moscow University and was practically the founder of chemical mineralogy based on historical methods. Outstanding Russian mineralogists, such as the late V. Archangelsky and A. Fersman, were students of Vernadsky. His widely known voluminous "Essay on Descriptive Mineralogy" (1908) is a standard work on mineralogy in Russia.

In 1906 he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences. Since that time, he turned his attention to geochemistry and study of the isomorphism of chemical elements. In 1915 he took a leading part in the organization of the Commission for the Study of Natural Resources of Russia, from which a number of scientific institutes later emerged. Vernadsky was made in 1922 the head of the Radium Institute and engaged energetically in study of the role of the radioactive elements in the history of the development of our planet. He was first to introduce the method of the determination of the age of rocks and minerals by the rate of their radioactivity and he made great contributions in that field of science.

He was also very interested in the problem of the role of micro-organisms in the biogeochemical processes in the earth's crust, and for the purpose of its solution, he founded in 1918 the Biogeochemical Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences and was its director since 1920 until his death.

The last period of Vernadsky's activity was devoted mostly to the study of geochemistry. His classical work "Ocherki geokhimii" ("Essays on Geochemistry") sustained four editions and was translated into French, German, Japanese, etc.

This in no way exhausts the list of the activities of Professor Vernadsky. We can mention only briefly his attainments in other fields of science: the study of physical and morphological properties of meteorites, the organization and development of balneologic centers and the founding of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, of which he was president in 1918, etc.

He visited Europe many times and was very well known in European scientific circles. His outstanding work was recognized by both the Imperial and Soviet governments and by the science world and he was the recipient of many honors and distinctions. In 1942 he was awarded the full prize of 200.000 roubles for his research in geochemistry and genetical mineralogy.

His colleagues in the Academy of Sciences and in Moscow University mourn him not only as a famous scientist but as a noble, simple and good-natured man and as a faithful friend.

VLADIMIR C. ASMOUS

ARNOLD ARBORETUM,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

THOMAS J. MANEY, research professor of pomology in the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, died on October 12 at the age of fifty-seven years.

DR. HENRY B. KUMMEL, from 1902 to 1937 state geologist of New Jersey, died on October 23 at the age of seventy-eight years.

DR. JAMES H. BEAL, senior past president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Remington medalist, died on September 20 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. E. J. WILLIAMS, F.R.S., professor of physics at University College, Aberystwyth, Wales, died on September 29 at the age of forty-two years.

DR. PAUL RUGGLI-BLUME, professor of chemistry at the University of Basel, died on September 4 at the age of sixty-one years.

ON the opening of the fall session of the Medical Branch of the University of Texas at Galveston, the auditorium of the out-patient clinic building was named Randall Hall in honor of Dr. Edward Randall (1860–1944), who served as professor of materia medica and therapeutics from 1890 to 1929, when he became professor emeritus and chairman of the Board of Regents of the university.

A MEMORIAL meeting in honor of the late Professor Pio del Rio Hortega was held on October 31 by the Montreal Neurological Institute. The speakers were Dr. Wilder Penfield, Dr. Pierre Masson, Dr. Miguel Prados and S/L William Gibson.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A BOARD to be known as the Army Medical Research and Development Board has been constituted in the Office of the Surgeon General. It will be responsible for the planning and general supervision of all Medical Department research and development activities. The membership will include the chiefs of the various