

1906 professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, died on November 19 at the age of ninety-four years.

THE death is announced at the age of sixty-six years of Dr. Clarence S. Yoakum, professor of per-

sonnel management, dean of the Graduate School and vice-president of the University of Michigan.

DR. LOUIS MAXWELL POTTS, research engineer of the Teletype Corporation, Chicago, died on October 23 at the age of sixty-nine years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ROYAL SOCIETY MEDALISTS

THE King of England has approved the recommendations made by the council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year as follows:

To Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S., for his work on the structure of proteins and other substances by x-ray methods, and for the solution of many other problems requiring a physical approach.

To Dr. E. J. Salisbury, C.B.E., F.R.S., for his notable contributions to plant ecology and to the study of the British flora generally.

The following awards of medals have been made by the president and the council of the Royal Society:

The Copley Medal to Dr. O. T. Avery, For. Mem. R.S., for his success in introducing chemical methods in the study of immunity against infective diseases.

The Davy Medal to Professor Roger Adams, for his extensive researches in the field of organic chemistry and of his recent work in the alkaloid field.

The Hughes Medal to Professor B. F. J. Schonland, O.B.E., F.R.S., for his distinguished work on atmospheric electricity and of his other physical researches.

JOHN D. GRIFFITH DAVIES,  
*Assistant Secretary*

### THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT

A SPECIAL meeting was called on Monday, November 19, by the Western Reserve University Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi for consideration of the bills now before Congress on governmental promotion of science. The Case Chapter of Sigma Xi and the Cleveland Physics Society cooperated in the meeting, which was attended by seventy-five scientists of the Cleveland area. The program, under the chairmanship of Dr. Helen A. Hunscher, president of the Western Reserve Chapter, was as follows:

1. Summary of Vannevar Bush's Report to the President. H. S. Booth, professor of chemistry, Western Reserve University.
2. Discussion of the need for federal support of research and of the merits and dangers of the proposed bills. Discussion leaders:

W. G. Leutner, president of Western Reserve University

Webster G. Simon, educational vice-president of Western Reserve University

Elmer Hutchisson, dean of the Case School of Applied Science

Leonard O. Olsen, associate professor of physics of the Case School of Applied Science and president of the Cleveland Physics Society

A. Sidney Harris, associate professor of physiology of Western Reserve University, chairman.

3. Recommendations of the Western Reserve Chapter Committee on Science Legislation.

The recommendations presented in part 3 of the program had already been sent under the signatures of the committee to President Truman, Senators Magnuson, Kilgore, Taft and Huffman, and to Mr. John Teeter, executive secretary for Senator Magnuson in organizing the hearings. These recommendations, as given below, were endorsed without dissent by those present at the meeting.

#### *To the Senate Subcommittees which are conducting Hearings on Science Legislation*

The undersigned members of the Committee on Science Legislation of the Western Reserve University Chapter of Sigma Xi submit the following statement of recommendations:

For reasons which have been ably stated by Dr. Vannevar Bush in his report to President Truman, "Science, the Endless Frontier," we strongly endorse the principle that a National Research Foundation for Federal promotion and support of scientific research be established.

After having studied the several bills for the establishment of a national organization or foundation, we recommend and urge that the bill which is finally reported to the Congress for adoption shall contain, among others, the following provisions.

1. That the powers of the foundation shall be vested in a board of nine members appointed by the President on the basis of a demonstrated capacity for the job and without regard for political affiliation. The director should be appointed by the board.
2. That researches shall be supported through contracts, grants or other forms of assistance. We oppose the principle that support shall be available to nonprofit institutions on a rigid contract basis only.
3. That the foundation, like other government agencies, be given the power to negotiate such patent arrangements with research contractors and grantees