

stating where it was dropped overboard and requesting its return.

Quantitative measurement of the dim light that fish and seaweed live by is being undertaken with a new instrumental set-up devised by Dr. R. T. Young of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Dr. Sverdrup continued. This consists of a watertight casing containing a photoelectric cell, which can be lowered into the water. At the same time a twin photoelectric cell in the boat registers the surface light. The differences between the two readings, after calibration, shows how much light the water absorbs.

Other lines of research being followed at the Scripps Institution include studies of ocean temperatures, currents, and salinity, identification and counting of the little known bacteria of the sea, collection and statistical studies of other marine microorganisms, and "applied" scientific work on such diverse problems as the fouling of ships' bottoms and the behavior of fishes.

#### Seismographs Aid Engineers

As you speed along the smooth, paved highway, you are all unconsciously indebted to benefactors who are equally unconscious of their contribution to your comfort.

Modern highway building owes much to seismologists, men devoted to the "pure" science of earthquake study, who know nothing of highway engineering.

The connection was pointed out at the meeting of the American Geophysical Union, by E. R. Shepard, research engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Highway engineers are now making use of seismographs, invented by earthquake scientists, as oil geologists did before them, Mr. Shepard stated.

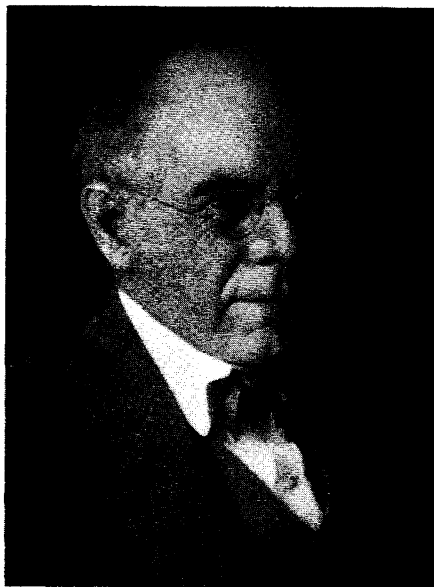
Highway engineers are using these instruments in the same way and for much the same purpose as the oil-seekers. That is, they start small artificial earthquakes with charges of dynamite, and then study the record of the waves as they come back to the seismographs, to see how far down it is to bedrock.

The thickness and nature of the loose soil above bedrock has much to do with the kind of foundations that have to be laid for the road. Knowledge of this kind makes for safer and longer-lived pavements, and frequently results in economies in construction.

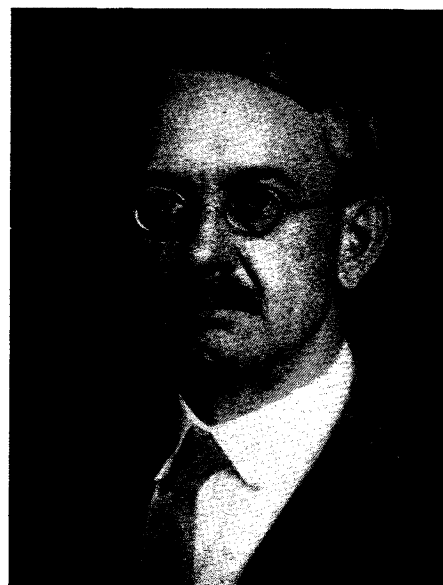
*Science News Letter, May 8, 1937*

Goldfish are mentioned in Chinese writings 12 centuries old.

## Science Service Presidents



DR. J. McKEEN CATTELL



DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN

DR. Edwin G. Conklin, noted Princeton biologist, was elected president of Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, at its annual meeting just held.

Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, pioneer psychologist and also editor of *Science* and other journals, had made known his desire not to be reelected after nine years in the presidency. Dr. Cattell continues as a member of the board of trustees on which he has served continuously since Science Service was founded in 1921. The trustees and staff of Science

Service joined in honoring Dr. Cattell at a dinner.

Dean Carl W. Ackerman of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism was added to the board of trustees to fill the vacancy caused by the death during the year of Marlen E. Pew, veteran newspaperman.

Dr. W. H. Howell, noted physiologist of Johns Hopkins University, was reelected vice-president and chairman of the executive committee, while Harry L. Smith of Scripps-Howard Newspapers was reelected treasurer.

*Science News Letter, May 8, 1937*

#### AGRICULTURE

### Pink-Hearted Cabbage From Imported Stock

A PINK-HEARTED type of cabbage has been grown from stock imported from Turkestan, at the experiment station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Beltsville, Md., Dr. Roy Magruder reports. (*Science*, April 30.)

The heads are green outside. As the leaves are stripped off, the inner ones are first the usual cabbage-white or cream color. Then, varying from a half-inch to three inches in diameter, there is an inner heart of pale pink or magenta color.

Dr. Magruder is sending seed stock to Dr. C. H. Myers of Cornell University, who will continue breeding experiments.

*Science News Letter, May 8, 1937*

#### MEDICINE

### Victims of Polio May Suffer Same Ill Again

INFANTILE paralysis, unlike proverbial lightning, can strike twice in the same place, Dr. Simon Flexner of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research reported to the National Academy of Sciences. He found that monkeys that had recovered from one attack could be given the disease a second time by infection with the same strain of virus, or with a different strain. Reinfection could take place after either a mild or a severe attack, "and in convalescent animals which have been subjected to hyperimmunization."

*Science News Letter, May 8, 1937*