

features to be developed in an enhanced degree, and the result is one of which the German nation may well feel proud.

With regard to the library building, the construction of which has still to be carried out, the original design of Prof. G. von Seidl was at an early stage found to be quite inadequate. The number of bequests and promises of books, drawings, plans, films, phonograms etc., so exceeded original expectations that proper accommodation could be met only by a complete modification of the building programme. New plans were accordingly prepared by Prof. Emanuel von Seidl, who took over the work on the death of his brother. As indicated in the plan (Fig. 1), two long wings follow the lie of the land towards the north-east, where they are connected by a frontage facing a monu-

mental approach leading from the Ludwig bridge. These wings are further connected with each other by two transverse buildings. From the approach court a passage leads to Court I., another to Court II., and a third leads to a large impressive Court of Honour, on the opposite side of which is the chief entrance to the exhibition building. This Court is also directly accessible from both sides of the river by means of the Erhardt bridges. The library building will be provided with four floors above the ground-floor and basement, except in the two low wings by which it is connected to the exhibition building.

Amongst the many objects specially designed or acquired for the new building are the two giant planetaria, one of which was described in NATURE of December 27, 1924.

Obituary.

DR. CARL ULRICH.

BY the death of Dr. Carl Ulrich on February 9, Austria has lost one of its foremost chemists, and radio-chemistry one of its pioneers.

After completing his course at the University, Dr. Ulrich was appointed assistant to Hofrat Lieben in the Chemical Institute of the University of Vienna. Later, he took up a post in the Auer works at Atzgersdorf, where, in conjunction with Dr. Haitinger, he made a study of the working up of pitchblende on a large scale. He was largely responsible for the organisation and equipment of the radium works at Joachimstal in Bohemia, the management of which he took over in 1910. Here he laboured until the close of the War, when the radium works passed into the hands of the Czecho-Slovakian Government, and Dr. Ulrich, being of Austro-German nationality, had to resign his post. During the next few years he acted as adviser to the Ministry of Trade in Vienna, but was pensioned off two years ago. Since 1918 he had been engaged on radio-active work in the Vienna Radium Institute.

Dr. Ulrich always showed a keen and active interest in the work of the Radium Institute, and he was ever ready to give it the benefit of his ripe experience in the varied chemical problems that arose from time to time. Many of the tertiary radium standards to be found in various parts of the world are primarily the work of his hands, and they provide an appropriate memorial to his labours. He died of sarcoma of the lungs, which, in the opinion of his medical advisers, was a direct result of his long-continued manipulation of large quantities of radium. It is a significant fact, however, that Dr. Ulrich had not worked with radium in quantity since he left Joachimsthal in 1918.

Dr. Ulrich was keenly interested in the development of the science of isotopy, and some of the earliest work on the isotopes of lead and thorium was performed with material supplied or rendered accessible by his intervention. To the world of science in general, and to his Austrian colleagues and friends in particular, the death of Dr. Ulrich means a great loss.

ROBERT W. LAWSON.

THE death occurred on December 19 last of Prof. H. L. Wells, and we are indebted to the *American Journal of Science* for the following details of his life and scientific career. Horace Lemuel Wells was born on October 5, 1855, in New Britain, Connecticut, and went to Yale University in 1884 as instructor in analytical chemistry in the Sheffield Scientific School, and eventually was appointed professor of analytical chemistry and metallurgy. This post he held from 1893 until 1923, when he was made professor emeritus. Prof. Wells devoted much attention to the analysis of minerals; he determined the composition of a number of minerals from Branchville, described with E. S. Dana the new mineral beryllonite, and analysed a new platinum mineral which he called sperrylite. In 1891 he obtained a supply of the rare mineral pollucite from which a quantity of caesium salts, hitherto only known in small quantities, was extracted. This furnished material for a series of investigations on caesium compounds which covered more than thirty years. About one-half of his published work relates to these substances. Beginning with the perchlorides of caesium, he investigated systematically the double salts of this element, and later discovered a series of triple salts, notably triple thiocyanates. In 1897 Prof. Wells translated Fresenius's "Qualitative Analysis," and he also published works on chemical calculations. In 1904 he became an associate-editor of the *American Journal of Science*. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1903.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. S. R. O. Dudfield, hon. foreign secretary, Royal Statistical Society, past president of the Harveian Society, London, and for thirty years medical officer of health for Paddington, on April 19, aged sixty-four.

Sir Rickman John Godlee, Bart., K.C.V.O., hon. surgeon in ordinary to the King and a past president of the Royal College of Surgeons, on April 20, aged seventy-six.

Sir David Lionel Goldsmid-Stern-Salomons, Bart., vice-president and treasurer for many years of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, on April 19, aged seventy-three.