

and unassuming, but of an affectionate, genial disposition, and was greatly beloved by all who knew him. His learning and knowledge were vast, and very wide in their scope. He never spoke hastily nor too much, and his opinion on a subject was always worth having. In my long association with him I have often felt the truth of Emerson's words: "Converse with a mind that is grandly simple, and literature looks like word catching."

The sudden death of this great and good man came as an irreparable loss not only to the community but to the whole scientific world.

GEORGE J. HOUGH

DINNER TO PROFESSOR RAMSAY WRIGHT

THE old pupils and colleagues of Professor Ramsay Wright, of the University of Toronto, joined in celebrating the completion of his thirty-fifth year of service in the university by tendering him a complimentary banquet and address on April 15. The chair was taken by Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, the toast to the university was proposed by Professor F. R. Lillie, of the University of Chicago, that to the guest of the evening by Dr. T. MacCrae, of the Johns Hopkins University, and the address was presented by Professor A. B. Macallum. A number of letters from distinguished colleagues of other universities were read, all of which bore ample testimony to the value of the services rendered by Professor Wright in the development of the biological sciences in Canada, in the elevation of the standards of medical education and in the constant maintenance, both by example and precept, of the highest ideals of scholarly attainments. A pleasing incident of the banquet was the reading of a Latin ode composed for the occasion by Professor Maurice Hutton, and of a sonnet by Professor W. H. Ellis, which follows:

From Scotland's mists across the sea you bore
The sacred fire (kindled by him whose name
Has made the century famous with his fame),
And bid our lamp burn brighter than before.
Upon our tree, a branch from Scotland's shore
You grafted, and behold, our tree became
Wanton in leafage; with blossoms all aflame;
Deep rooted; and with boughs to heaven that soar.

We see the better issue from the strife,
And hope the best. In loathsome crawling things
We feel the fluttering of jeweled wings.
In nature's score, with seeming discords rife,
We seek to read, with you, the note that brings
To harmony the jarring chords of life.

THE SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY

THE recently issued administrative report of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and an announcement of Washington University concerning the Henry Shaw School of Botany, indicate that the Shaw foundation is on the eve of entering upon a much increased activity. Although Henry Shaw in 1885 endowed a school of botany in Washington University, to the head of which Professor Trelease was called from the University of Wisconsin, the provision made was practically for only a chair of botany. Four years later, on the death of Mr. Shaw, his fortune, appraised at several million dollars, passed to the care of trustees, for the maintenance of his long established and well known garden and the further development of an institution of research and instruction in botany and allied sciences; the head of the School of Botany being selected as its director.

In the twenty years that have since passed, the trustees of the Shaw estate have been compelled to administer their trust on a maintenance basis, seeing approximately a quarter of their gross income absorbed in general taxes and nearly as much more claimed for street improvements, sewers and similar purposes, a large part of which were entailed by the possession of extensive tracts of unimproved real estate within the city limits. Meantime, the revenue of the School of Botany has sufficed for scarcely more than meeting the undergraduate needs of the university. Nevertheless, maintenance of the garden has been made to include the provision of a good equipment in living plants (11,464 forms), herbarium (618,872 specimens) and library (58,538 books and pamphlets). A part of the time of otherwise indispensable employees has been given to botanical investigation, the results of which are published in a series of annual reports begun in 1890,