

ment. Thus in large measure the student is examined not by the man who gave the course. A single question may involve knowledge acquired in the work of several departments, and all questions are to be answered from this broader viewpoint and not from the viewpoint of any particular course. The grade so given on the written part of a general examination will make up 40 per cent. of the final mark for the general examination.

The oral part of each general examination will be conducted by boards of five members appointed by the committee on examinations, on each of which for the first general examination there must be at least one representative of the clinical branches, and for the second general examination at least one representative of the laboratory subjects. The board will determine by conference and vote the grade of the student, and the grade given on the oral part of a general examination will make up 20 per cent. of the final mark of the general examination.

This, then, is the plan for examination which we have voted to adopt. It is, as you see, a very considerable departure from the type of examination generally in vogue in medical schools. Practical examinations are given at present in most of the medical courses at Harvard. These will continue to be given. The present large number of written examinations will be reduced to two, to which are added two oral examinations, both planned to determine the student's comprehension, judgment and power rather than his detailed information. I will not occupy your time with any more minute description of the plan, and I will not enlarge upon what I consider to be its very great merits. We believe it to be a great improvement on our present system, but I will not engage in prophecy as to what it will accomplish; some years hence it can be reported again, and the reporter then will give you a criticism of its practical application with a statement of what modifications actual practise has required in it.

HENRY A. CHRISTIAN

BOSTON

DR. A. R. WALLACE AND THE UNIVERSITY
OF COLORADO

IN the general biology class at the University of Colorado it is customary to give a good deal of attention to the theory of evolution, and to the history of biological science. The class (about 135 students) of this year became much interested in the character and work of Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, and took the liberty of sending him the following greeting on the occasion of his eighty-ninth birthday:

We, the students in the general biology class at the University of Colorado, ardent admirers of your work on evolution, send you respectful greetings on the occasion of your eighty-ninth birthday, wishing you health and happiness.

To this, Dr. Wallace replied in a letter dated January 12, 1912:

My dear Young Friends:

Thank you much for your very kind greetings. I am much pleased that so many of you are readers of my books. The wonders of nature have been the delight and solace of my life. From the day when I first saw a bee-orchis (*Ophrys apifera*) in ignorant astonishment, to my first view of the grand forests of the Amazon; thence to the Malay Archipelago, where every fresh island with its marvellous novelties and beauties was an additional delight—nature has afforded me an ever-increasing rapture, and the attempt to solve some of her myriad problems an ever-growing sense of mystery and awe. And now, in my wild garden and greenhouse, the endless diversities of plant life renew my enjoyments; and the ever-changing pageants of the seasons impress me more than ever in my earlier days.

I sincerely wish you all some of the delight in the mere contemplation of nature's mysteries and beauties which I have enjoyed, and still enjoy.

Yours very truly,

ALFRED R. WALLACE

HENRY WILSON SPANGLER¹

IN recording the death, on March 17th, of their friend and associate, Henry Wilson Spangler, Whitney Professor of Dynamical Engineering, the members of the University Faculties feel moved to give expression, how-

¹ Minute adopted by the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania.

ever inadequately, to the great loss that has come to the university in the departure of one of her most efficient and devoted servants, and to their profound sense of personal bereavement in the death of a staunch friend and wise counsellor.

With the exception of a three-year period of service in the United States Navy, Professor Spangler has been a member of the faculty of the university since 1881. For more than a quarter of a century he has labored for the advancement of the important interests committed to his trust, with a singleness of purpose and a self-sacrificing devotion that served as an inspiration to his associates, from the humblest to the highest. Endowed with quick initiative, resourcefulness, courage and self-reliance, his qualities of leadership stood out at their best at times of emergencies, such as the destruction by fire of the old Mechanical Engineering Building, and the almost immediate and orderly resumption of activities in an incomplete, new building, with such facilities as could be quickly improvised. A strict and almost military disciplinarian, he was no less rigid in the standards which he applied to himself. The respect and admiration in which he was held by his students ripened into affection as they came to see him at closer range, and recognized the bigness of heart and the warmth of friendship that lay, poorly concealed, by a certain mantle of austerity. There were few graduates who failed to turn to him at some time for helpful counsel in the perplexities of later years, or who had failed to accept it, even though it ran counter to their own promptings. They had implicit confidence in his judgment, and knew that his advice sprang from genuine, almost paternal solicitude for their welfare, and that it was never given lightly. For some years before his death, he published, at his own expense, and sent monthly to every graduate of his department, a little pamphlet called the *Connecting Rod*, designed to give them information about the department and about each other, in a simple, unaffected way. Everything he did, for that matter, was done in a like manner, for none

had a more wholesome contempt for the vanities, affectations or shallow pretenses of man.

He possessed to a remarkable degree the faculty of perceiving clearly, and almost intuitively, the essential elements of a seemingly difficult problem or complex situation, and he was as quick in action as in perception. Few excelled him in the clear discernment of the fallacies of an argument or in the directness of the challenge of such fallacies. Of a thoroughly progressive bent, he did not allow himself to be carried away by the educational fads and follies of the hour. The business of education was, to him, a serious business, with which liberties were not to be lightly taken. Although his talents were frequently brought into requisition in outer circles, his duties as a teacher were, to him, ever of paramount importance, on which he allowed no professional obligations of a busy lifetime to trench unduly.

His university friends find it hard, indeed, to realize that his commanding figure has been seen upon the campus for the last time, and that in their councils his voice is stilled forever. None know better than they the sterling worth, the far-reaching significance of his performances in the service of the university, and especially of the department for which he had planned and labored so indefatigably, with such wholehearted devotion, and on which he has left the enduring impress of his rare powers.

THOMAS HARRISON MONTGOMERY¹

THE University of Pennsylvania has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Dr. Thomas Harrison Montgomery, Jr., Professor of Zoology, who has done so much to illumine his favorite science, and who has endeared himself to his colleagues, both in this and other universities, at home and abroad.

Professor Montgomery was a son of the late Thomas Harrison Montgomery, for many years president of the American Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, who was a descendant of the Montgomerys of Eglinton, an

¹ Minute adopted by the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania.