known to everybody, at least ought to be known by everybody. But *the calling of this fact to full consciousness of the members of our profession may render a great service to the progress of international morality.*

In the dawn of history, the medical man was also the treasurer of philosophy and morals. In the middle ages when knowledge became specialized, medical men more and more devoted their activity exclusively to medical practise. On account of the inefficiency of medicine at that time, medicine lost its prestige. However, in the recent decades medicine became a science and one marvelous discovery follows another, and the efficiency of medical practise increases rapidly. Medicine makes accessible to man uninhabitable parts of the world. It prevents disease, and with increased efficiency it learns to cure it. Medical sciences and medical men rose in the estimate of discriminating civilized mankind. *Could they (medical sciences and medical men) not become again bearers of the flag of morals, especially of international morals?* In the furious struggle which is going on at present amongst civilized nations international morals lost its friends; religion, sciences and the brotherhood of mankind proclaimed by the followers of socialism failed it; medicine alone did not desert it. In times of peace and for the purpose of furthering useful knowledge medical sciences and medical practises are working in separate groups, according to their specific aims. But all medical men of various shades and groupings ought to unite for this one high aim, *ought to establish a Medical Brotherhood for the Purpose of Upholding and Accelerating the Progress of International Morality.*

Every one of the scientific and practical men in medicine in our large country ought to join with enthusiasm such a missionary enterprise. The initiative ought to be taken by our large neutral country, but we may appeal to our neutral brethren in other neutral countries to join our crusade. However, we must not approach our medical confreres in the belligerent nations as long as the war lasts, lest it may be interpreted as an attempt to weaken their patriotism and their enthusiasm for the cause of the particular countries of which they are an integral part.

S. J. MELTZER
ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

CYRUS FOGG BRACKETT

BY the death of Professor Cyrus Fogg Brackett, which occurred on January 29, another link connecting the present with the past in the history of physics in this country was broken. Professor Brackett belonged to that group of physicists whose influence is now felt through their pupils in most of our universities. In the early days of his service at Princeton he was associated with Joseph Henry, who was a trustee of the college, and who took an active interest in the development of the department of physics under Professor Brackett's direction. His early studies came before the French influences had been superseded by the German, and his thinking always showed traces of that early training.

Professor Brackett, after graduation at Bowdoin College in 1859, studied medicine at the Harvard Medical School, and was graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1863. He then returned to Bowdoin as a member of the faculty, and soon became professor of chemistry and physics. In 1873, on the advice of Professor Henry, he was called to Princeton as professor of physics. His coming to Princeton coincided with the foundation of the John Green School of

Science, and with a greatly increased interest in all scientific studies. He became at once the trusted adviser of the board of trustees in their endeavors to increase and improve the instruction in scientific subjects, and he was influential with the faculty in all matters connected with the development of the curriculum.

The physical laboratory as he found it had no equipment for research, and but little for demonstration. He felt it was his duty to devote himself to the improvement of the equipment, and to the organization of courses of lectures and laboratory instruction. As new apparatus came in he would put it together and test it, and when new apparatus was wanted which could be better made than purchased, he would construct it with his own hands. He was very skillful in all mechanical work, and much of the apparatus which he made is still in use.

At the same time he gave himself with entire devotion to his labors as a teacher. He thoroughly believed that physics should form an essential part of every student's course of study, and realized that if this were the case the course in physics should not be confined to the dry details of the subject, but should rather present the philosophy of nature. Owing to the breadth of his education, and to his unlimited interest in all scientific and philosophical questions, he was able to illuminate his subject with illustrations drawn from other sciences, and from the practical applications of science in the arts. His courses of lectures were not only instructive, but inspiring, and many of his students remember him with affection and respect as the most stimulating influence in their intellectual life.

Professor Brackett's interests were strongly excited by the development of electrical science, and of its applications to the comfort and convenience of life. He was acquainted with many of the great inventors by whom those applications have been made, and he became connected with some of their principal achievements as an expert adviser. He was occupied for several years as an expert, both in the laboratory and in the courts, with the questions arising in the contest concerning the invention of the telephone. He was thus led to give instruction in the engineering side of electrical science, and ultimately in 1889 to undertake the development of a school of electrical engineering. The course in this school, as he planned it, is designed for graduates, or for others already properly qualified by a sufficient knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry. One of its principal features is the emphasis laid upon the advanced study of general electrical science. His aim was to give his students a thorough general knowledge of their science, so that after a short experience in the practise of their profession they might qualify for positions in which scientific knowledge is particularly needed. Although, as he appreciated would be the case, the membership of this school has never been large, many of those who have gone out from it have justified the plan on which it was organized by rapidly attaining important places in the profession of electrical engineering.

Professor Brackett was for many years a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 1886 was vice-president of section B. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. His knowledge of medicine and his general interest in the public welfare led to his appointment as a member of the State Board of Health of New Jersey. He served as president of this board for ten years. He was also for many years a member of the sanitary committee of

Princeton University, and was its responsible member in charge of the infirmary.

In 1908 he insisted on retiring from active service and was made professor emeritus. He at once turned his attention to research, for which he was so well fitted, and from which his devotion to professorial duties as a teacher had for so many years excluded him. He employed his technical skill in making optical preparations, and at last became interested in the construction of a ruling engine for the construction of diffraction gratings, of the sort known as echelette gratings. He devised a new method for the mechanical grinding of the screw, by which most of the hand labor that was needed in the methods previously used was avoided, and before his death he had the satisfaction of seeing the engine which he constructed producing gratings of satisfactory quality. With very little additional labor it will be fitted to do the work for which it was designed.

Professor Brackett was gifted with a most winning personality. He made friends of his colleagues and his pupils. The gift of the Palmer Physical Laboratory by Mr. S. S. Palmer, and its endowment by Mr. D. B. Jones and Mr. T. B. Jones, are monuments of the affectionate regard which he inspired in some of those who knew him. He was a wide reader, and an ingenious speculator on physical questions, and was always ready to contribute of his knowledge to those who came to him for information and advice. He will be remembered by all who came within the range of his influence as an inspiring teacher, an affectionate friend and a good man.

W. F. MAGIE

GEOGRAPHICAL MEETING IN NEW YORK

THE second joint meeting of the American Geographical Society and the Association of American Geographers will be held in New York, Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, 1915. With the exception of Friday evening, the sessions will be held at the society's building, Broadway at 156th Street. President Dodge of the association will preside at the sessions. The joint meeting will be called to order on Friday morning by Mr. John Greenough, vice-president and chairman of the council, American Geographical Society. The Park Avenue Hotel at the corner of 33d Street and Park Avenue, will be headquarters for association members. The American Geographical Society has very generously asked all association members to be their guests at the hotel during the meeting, from Thursday afternoon, April 8, to Saturday afternoon, April 10. The arrangements make it desirable to dine together at hours to be announced at the session on Friday. It is hoped that as many members as possible will arrive on Thursday in time for dinner and the social gathering in the secretary's room at the hotel during the evening. The American Geographical Society has invited all members of the association to luncheon on both Friday and Saturday noon at a restaurant close to the society's building. Mr. George A. Plimpton has invited the members of the association, their wives, and all workers in geography in attendance at the meeting to meet at his home on Friday evening. Mr. Plimpton will speak informally on Early American Geography, and exhibit his complete and interesting library of early American texts in geography.

The scientific program is as follows:

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION (FROM ELEVEN O'CLOCK TO TWELVE-THIRTY)

"The Coast of New Caledonia," by W. M. Davis.

"Geography of the Navajo Country," by H. E. Gregory.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION (FROM TWO O'CLOCK TO FIVE)

"Utah, the Oasis at the Foot of the Wasatch," by Mark Jefferson.

"The Geographic Factor in Agricultural Industries," by C. S. Scofield.