

SCIENCE

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JOHN DUER IRVING

CONTENTS

<i>John Duer Irving: DR. JAMES F. KEMP</i>	255
<i>Race Appreciation in Latin America: PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS</i>	256
<i>The American System of Agricultural Education and Research and its Rôle in Helping to Win the War: SECRETARY DAVID F. HOUSTON</i>	260
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>Trench Fever and Lice; Granite for Building in 1917; The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Squaw Island</i>	262
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	266
<i>University and Educational News</i>	269
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Barley Bread, Optimum Reaction and Salt Effect: LORRAINE L. LANDENBERGER. Concerted Behavior of Terrestrial Mollusks: T. C. STEPHENS. A Country without a Name: PROFESSOR J. S. MOORE, DR. INCO W. D. HACKH</i>	269
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Parker on City Milk Supply: PROFESSOR LEO F. RETTGER</i>	272
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Corpeus Luteum and the Periodicity in the Sexual Cycle: DR. LEO LOEB</i>	273
<i>The Ohio Academy of Science: PROFESSOR EDWARD L. RICE</i>	277

JUST at the close of last July, not only personal friends, but geologists in general in America were shocked and grieved to learn of the death of Captain John Duer Irving of the 11th U. S. Engineers, professor of economic geology in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, on leave. Alike as active and productive geologist, as successful and devoted teacher, and as managing editor of the magazine *Economic Geology* from its beginning in 1905, Professor Irving was known and esteemed by a very wide circle. He was born August 18, 1874, in Madison, Wis., where his father Roland Duer Irving was professor of geology in the State University, and was just starting his fruitful investigations in Lake Superior geology. John, the son, lived in Madison until his father's all too early death in 1888. Mrs. Irving removed to the east and John was prepared for Columbia College, which he entered in 1892, representing the fourth generation of his family in the direct line, to be registered on the college rolls. He graduated in 1896 and took his doctor's degree in 1899.

Beginning in the vacation following his junior year, he had field experience each summer, and worked successively in the Uinta Mountains of Utah; the Adirondacks in New York; the San Juan region of Colorado; and in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Partly from the example of his father and partly from the writer's influence, economic geology became the branch which he specially followed. On taking his Ph.D. Dr. Irving joined the U. S. Geological Survey, and was assigned to a party in the Black Hills, and in time under the oversight of S. F. Emmons completed the professional paper on the ore deposits of the northern hills. His association led to his becoming in later years Dr. Emmons' closest associate in the revision of the famous Lead-

ville monograph. The close and confidential relation with Dr. Emmons, who was one of the most careful and accurate of American geologists, as well as one of the best of men, was extremely influential upon the younger man. Irving also had experience while connected with the U. S. Geological Survey in the Globe district of Arizona; at Park City, Utah; in the Needle Mountains and at Lake City, Colorado; and in the coal regions of Indiana and Pennsylvania. In his later years he visited the western states and Alaska on mine examinations and in connection with apex litigation.

His first teaching experience came in 1903, when he substituted for Professor Wilbur C. Knight for a year at the University of Wyoming. He was called to Lehigh University in 1904, and to the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale in 1907. His work as editor began in 1905 when the magazine *Economic Geology* was established and he was the choice of its directors for managing editor.

Professor Irving has left a very creditable series of papers, which were issued during his connection with the U. S. Geological Survey. His work is marked by accuracy and patient care. He was not only a good observer, but possessed abilities of description and inference of a high order. In this group of his contributions the most elaborate will be the revised monograph on Leadville. While the fundamental observations and data were accumulated under Dr. S. F. Emmons' oversight and in no small degree by him personally, Dr. Emmons died when he had only prepared a few pages of introductory manuscript and the main work of composition was completed by Professor Irving and was done with scrupulous and almost filial devotion.

As editor of *Economic Geology* Dr. Irving was tireless and persevering. In large degree his efforts to secure papers brought to its pages the long list of striking and timely contributions with which they are crowded. He obtained thereby a wide and intimate acquaintance with topics of interest. He himself made especially thoughtful and suggestive contributions on the criteria for identifying

replacement-deposits; on the causes which localize ore-shoots; and on the importance of having the same observer study large problems in many localities, rather than work out the details and teachings of a single district.

Dr. Irving had a fine sense of clear and finished literary expression, as might justly have been expected of one whose direct forbear was Washington Irving's brother; and whose father's work was marked by the same characteristics. In disposition he was considerate, kindly and affectionate, such that he was greatly endeared to his friends.

When German ambitions and hostility in the spring of 1916 began to threaten the United States with the grim possibility of war, Professor Irving went to the officers' training camp at Plattsburg. Being unmarried he felt it his duty to fit himself for service and at the close of the training period handed in his name as available if needed. In the spring of 1917 he was called and passed his examinations for a captaincy. He was commissioned in the 11th U. S. Engineers, "the fighting Engineers" as they have been known since Cambrai. He sailed for France in July, 1917, and had been building railroads and giving instruction to young officers in mining engineering as long and continuously as he was able. His strength became overtaxed, and when an attack of Spanish grippe developed into pneumonia, he could not resist it. He passed away July 20, in Flanders, and his name was entered on the Roll of Honor.

JAMES F. KEMP

RACE-APPRECIATION IN LATIN AMERICA

ANTHROPOLOGISTS, in their elaborate, careful and invaluable researches into the past history of the native race of the American continent, have been wont to devote the major part of their space to the *former* cultural attainments of that race. They ignore the fact that, in Mexico, in some of the Central American countries, in Colombia, and in the Andean countries (Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia), that race is to-day anywhere from sixty-five to eighty-five per cent. of the total population.