schools and educational institutions in Italy and abroad. These articles are by Piero Giacosa, on the "Institutes of Experimental Sciences" (physics and chemistry); by Pietro Bonfante, on the "New Scientific Degrees"; by Eugénie Strong, on the "Britannic School in Rome"; by Alfredo Ascoli, on a "Legislative Alliance"; by Andrea Galante, on the "English Education Bill of 1917"; by L. Duchesne, on the "Transformation of the University Teaching in France"; by V. Scialoja, on the "Giuridic Entente between France and Italy"; by P. S. Leicht, on the "College of Spain and Flanders in Bologna," and by G. Castelnuovo, on the "Reform of the Engineering Schools in France."

We should soon like to see some articles on the educational institutions and research laboratories of the United States and to learn of their vast development and progress along these lines. We would recommend that American scholars write these articles and in them present also their suggestions for the most interesting studies and fields for research in science, literature and law, and indicate the schools, colleges and laboratories that might most profitably be visited by Italian colleagues and students, in order to begin this intercourse and cooperation from which many advantages are to be expected.

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GEORGE FRANCIS ATKINSON

IN the death of George Francis Atkinson American botany has suffered an incalculable loss. Stricken unexpectedly he died at the beginning of what promised to be his most productive period of activity. Having served for more than a quarter of a century as professor of botany in Cornell University he had only recently been relieved by the trustees of all teaching and administrative duties in order that he might give the remaining years of his life to uninterrupted research. He hoped particularly to be able to complete and put in final form for publication his monographic studies on the fleshy fungi of North America. In the pursuit of this undertaking he had gone without assistants for an extended collecting trip to the far west. Here with characteristic enthusiasm for his work and lured by the surpassing richness of the fungous flora near Mt. Ranier he overtaxed his strength, exposed himself to inclement weather, and contracted a severe cold. This rapidly developed into influenza followed by pneumonia, and he died on November 15, in the Tacoma Hospital at Tacoma, Washington. His end came suddenly and found him alone far from friends and home. After his removal to the hospital, though critically ill, his chief worry concerned the recently collected specimens which he had been forced to leave uncared for in the room of his boarding house. Shortly before he died, in his last delirium, he attempted to dictate to his nurse some notes concerning his fungi. Thus death found him engrossed to the very end in the science which he had so long served and which he loved so well. He lies buried at South Haven, Mich., near the home of his boyhood. Ithaca and Cornell will not see him again. To his friends and colleagues it is a thing incredible that his genial personality and brilliant mind are gone from among us. The words, "Professor Atkinson is dead" have passed from lip to lip and left us almost unconvinced. The memory of him and his work now so clearly before us will serve as a guiding influence through the coming years. It is particularly gratifying to the writer to be able to give here an expression of his appreciation of one whom he revered as a great teacher and valued as a true friend.

Professor Atkinson was born in Raisinville, Monroe County, Michigan, January 26, 1854. He received his preliminary academic training at Olivet College, coming later to Cornell University, from which he was graduated in 1885. The following year he began his scientific career as professor of zoology at the University of North Carolina, and between the years 1886 and 1890 published about fifteen papers in the field of zoology. In 1888 he accepted the professorship of botany and

zoology in the University of South Carolina, and in 1889 became professor of biology and botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. While at the latter institution he published as a bulletin of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station perhaps his best known zoological paper on the root-gall nematode, *Heterodera radicicola*. His interests shifted rapidly, however, to the fields of plant pathology and mycology, and in 1892 he returned to his alma mater to accept the position of assistant professor of botany. He became associate profesor in 1893, and at the death of Professor Prentiss in 1896 became head of the department.

During the last twenty-five years of his life, though burdened with the multitudinous duties of teaching and administration, he found time to devote himself to research in various fields of botany. He labored untiringly and published over one hundred and fifty papers concerning his investigations. These reveal an unusually wide range of interests. He was also the author of extensively used text books including, "The Biology of Ferns," "Elementary Botany," "A College Text Book of Botany" and "Mushrooms Edible, Poisonous, etc." He rapidly attained an eminent position among the botanists of the world, and received many honors. He was the first president of the Ameican Botanical Society, and throughout his life took an active part in numerous other scientific organizations. His high standing as a scientist was given formal recognition when in 1918 he was elected a member of the National Academy of Science. He served as a delegate to the International Botanical Congresses of 1905 and 1910 held in Vienna and Brussels respectively, and at these meetings used his influence to obtain legislation making for greater stability and uniformity in botanical nomenclature. He traveled in various countries of Europe studying in the field the fleshy fungi of the different regions, and making the acquaintance of an extensive circle of his European colleagues. He was widely known in other lands as a prominent American student of the fungi.

Although his interests covered many fields of botany his highest attainments were realized in mycology. He was undoubtedly one of the foremost students of the fleshy Basidiomycetes which America has produced. Through years of enthusiastic collecting and study he had acquired a herbarium of specimens and a wealth of photographs and notes which gave him a thoroughly comprehensive grasp of this field. Had he lived to complete the extensive illustrated monograph of this group which he had in process of preparation it would have far surpassed in thoroughness and scope any similar paper on these fungi which has yet appeared in any language. His inability to do so will always remain a source of great regret to his students, and constitutes a very distinct loss to the science of mycology.

In the field of general mycology Professor Atkinson was especially interested in questions of phylogeny. Any newly discovered fungus which promised to supply a transition form from one group to another gained his immediate interest. This interest in phylogeny found expression in his comprehensive papers on the origin of the Phycomycetes and Ascomycetes, and is also reflected in the numerous papers which he and his students published on the ontogeny of the fruit-body in many members of the Agaricaceæ and related groups. The unusual keenness of his reasoning powers and the richness of the fund of knowledge from which he drew his conclusions are revealed in some of the philosophical discussions in these papers. His marvelously retentive memory was at once the admiration and the despair of his students.

He was a man of firm convictions, resolute in setting for himself the highest standards of scientific excellence, and impatient of mediocrity in others. His untiring devotion to his work will long remain an inspiration to those whose fortune it was to know him intimately as teacher or friend. Harry M. Fitzpatrick

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE GERMS OF INFLUENZA AND YELLOW FEVER[1]

Major H. Graeme Gibson, R. A. M. C., who died recently at Abbéville, was a martyr to

[1] From the London *Times*.