

ion. "May I then express the hope," says Professor Ogden, "that among you," please consider that members of the Purdue Chapter are now intended, "there may be some who will find the subjects for their future experimental work, not only in modern practical applications, in attempted solutions of the many insistent problems of labor, industry and of education, but in abstract research, without thought of reward, carried on in the sole interest of science, that the existence of the university may be more fully justified and the purpose of the Society of Sigma Xi the better realized."

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#### RAPHAEL BLANCHARD (1858-1919)

ON February 8, 1919, Professor Raphael Blanchard, of the Paris Medical Faculty, the most eminent medical zoologist and medical historian of modern France, died suddenly of heart failure, at the comparatively early age of sixty-one.

Professor Blanchard was born in the little Tourainian village of Ste. Christophe, on February 28, 1857. He was a great-grand-nephew of the famous ballonist Jean Pierre Blanchard, inventor of the parachute, and son of René Blanchard, a dramatic poet, who dying young, left behind him at least one *chef-d'œuvre* of the French stage, the little play of "Pierre Guiffort." Literary and poetic talent was a proper inheritance for the poet's son, who became one of the most distinguished of medical scholars in recent times. A taste for natural science drew young Blanchard to Paris in 1875, where he became attached, a year later, to the histological laboratory of Ch. Robin and Georges Pouchet at the École des Hautes Études. The next two years were spent in Germany, where he studied embryology at Vienna and Leipzig and comparative anatomy at Bonn. Upon his return, he served for a long period as préparateur for the physiologist Paul Bert, at the Sorbonne, and took his medical degree in 1880, with a graduating thesis on anesthesia

by nitrous oxide. At the age of twenty-six (1883), he obtained by concours, a professorship in the Paris Medical Faculty. In the meantime, he had published (1883) a little book on the German universities, which was destined to become well known among French educators. Blanchard's scientific career was deeply influenced by his German training, from which he probably acquired his taste for erudition and thoroughness in research. Up to the present war, he was a prominent link between French and German science.

In 1883, in collaboration with Paul Bert, he published a text-book on zoology. In the same year he began his monumental treatise on medical zoology (1885-90), which immediately established itself as the authoritative work on this subject. While the thematic material is mainly parasitology, this work is unquestionably the most comprehensive ever written on the different animals injurious to man. Its geographical and historical details give it a unique place among medical books; the bibliographies attest the wide learning and erudition of the author. With the publication of this work, Blanchard's reputation was established. In 1889, with Milne Edwards, he organized the first international congress of zoology.<sup>1</sup> In 1894, he was admitted to the portals of the Academy of Medicine, an unusual honor for a man of thirty-seven. In 1897, he succeeded Professor Baillon in the chair of medical zoology in the Paris Faculty, and, in 1907, at his request, this chair became specialized as the chair of parasitology. Blanchard made innumerable contributions to parasitology, principally at the Société Zoologique de France, of which he was one of the founders (1876), and for twenty years secretary; and later in the *Archives de Parasitologie*, the most important literary organ of this science, which he founded in 1898 and of which he remained editor until his death. This periodical is everywhere informed by the erudite genius of its editor. To it Blanchard contributed most of his original researches, his many biographies of great parasitologists,

<sup>1</sup> Blanchard was present at the meeting of the Congress in Boston, Mass., August 21, 1907.

living and dead, and many other contributions to the history of medicine. Judged by the illustrations alone, this periodical will always remain one of the most important reference repositories of medical history. Among his other works were monographs on the "Tænia" (1891), the "Coccidia" (1900), a large and important treatise on "Mosquitoes," (1905), a German-French dictionary of anatomical and zoological terms (1908) and a series of monographs on the rôle of insects in infection, which was continued during the recent war in a series of booklets on insects dangerous to soldiers in the trenches, not unlike the series gotten up by Professor A. E. Shipley in England. To anthropology, Blanchard made contributions on "steatopygy in African women" (1883), "the seventh cervical rib of man" (1895), "atavism in man" (1885), "polymastia" (1885) and on "animals injurious to the human race" (1888). Early and late, he did much for medical and zoological nomenclature (1889-1917).<sup>2</sup>

In 1902, Blanchard founded the Institut de médecine coloniale, the first French school of tropical medicine, and in the same year (1902), he also founded the French Society of History of Medicine, a pleiad of talented workers, who met in one of the halls of the medical faculty and whose transactions have been preserved to date. This society has been known to travelers as the most hospitable and attractive of all organizations devoted to this subject, a sort of Mecca for the medical historians.

The last seven years of Blanchard's hard working life were crowned by his great work on medical epigraphy (1909-1915), the intent of which is well described in the subtitle, "Corpus inscriptionum ad medicinam biologiamque spectantium," in other words, no less than a complete collection of all European inscriptions and epitaphs relating to medicine from the time of the Middle Ages down. The plan of this undertaking was originally proposed by Blanchard to the Société française d'histoire de médecine on December 11, 1907, but it was soon discovered that funds were

not available and the financing of the proposition was then assumed by Blanchard himself. As it stands, it is one of the most enduring monuments ever made to medico-historical research by the travel method. As far as published, the work comprises some 1,258 inscriptions collected all over Europe and the United States by Blanchard, Wickersheimer and others, each inscription being furnished with an appropriate commentary. Before the appearance of this work, little had been done in medical epigraphy beyond a monograph on medicine in the Roman inscriptions by Jacopo Arata (1902)<sup>3</sup> and a study of the Greek medical inscriptions by J. Oehler (1909).<sup>4</sup> It is now well known that our knowledge of public medicine in antiquity has been largely evolved from the Greek and Roman inscriptions. It is to be hoped that the subject of medical epigraphy will henceforth become an international matter of continuous record and research, to carry out the intention of Blanchard's great work. He was himself one of the noblest advocates of internationalism in science.

Blanchard had been described by those who knew him as a man of the most genial, debonair and attractive type. An engraving in the Surgeon General's Library represents him in the costly vestments of the Paris Faculty, with jabot and dalmatic, his breast covered with many decorations; a towering figure, the countenance expressive of the utmost intellectual refinement. The clean-cut ironic features betoken the type of character which might be either godlike or satanic, but the abiding impression is one of ineffable *bonté de cœur*. In the many group pictures which have appeared, representing Blanchard among his colleagues, he invariably stands out as the *gentilhomme* κατ' ἐξοχήν, as Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Saint Saëns did among the musicians. In the decease of this distinguished savant, French science sustains a grave loss.

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<sup>4</sup> Oehler, Janus, Amsterdam, 1909, XIV., 4, 111.

<sup>3</sup> Arata, "L'arte medica nelle iscrizioni latini," Genoa, 1902.

<sup>2</sup> His last contribution to the subject is in *Bull. Acad. de méd.*, Paris, 1916, LXXVI., 380-389.