WILLIAM GILSON FARLOW[1]

The Botanical Society of America records its appreciation of the great loss sustained by the society, by American science, and by botanical science throughout the world, in the death of Professor William Gilson Farlow.

Educated as a physician, he yielded readily to Asa Gray's suggestion that he broaden the scope of botany at Harvard University by developing there an interest in flowerless plants, which up to that time had scarcely appeared above the horizon of professional botanists in America. In preparation for this he traveled extensively in northern Europe, at a time when extended travel was uncommon, meeting and forming personal relations with the leading authorities on cryptogams; and he had the very unusual privilege of working in De Bary's laboratory at Strasbourg, where he associated intimately with other young men who were to continue the work of this great leader after his own untimely death.

Never overburdened by large numbers of half-interested students, Dr. Farlow communicated his own enthusiasm and industrious habits through long years to a limited number of men who have been counted for a generation among the leaders in American botany, and particularly in that branch of the science which De Bary's classical studies of fungous parasitism laid as the foundation on which the art of phytopathology has been reared of late, particularly in America, with much success and economic benefit.

Though familiar with ferns, and especially with the marine algæ of New England, of which he published an early monograph, Professor Farlow's interest always centered in the fungi, and the larger number of his publications have dealt with these plants.

He served his science particularly well in securing for permanent reference preservation the historic herbarium of Curtiss, one of the pioneers in American mycology, and that of Tuckerman, long the authority on American lichens; and since the death of Asa Gray, in 1887, he has been recognized at home and abroad as the foremost of American botanists.

Among his unpublished manuscripts is the completion of a compendious Bibliographic Index of North American Fungi, one volume of which was printed in 1905, and of which the remainder should be brought to publication promptly now that his work on it is done.

A keen critic, an encouraging teacher, a kindly and sympathetic friend, and a man of the broadest international interest, Professor Farlow is mourned by all who knew him.

[1] Memorial adopted by the Botanical Society of America.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESEARCH ON RUBBER CULTIVATION

A correspondent writes from Sumatra:

During the last week of August and the first week of September, 1919, Dr. J. J. van Hall, director of the Laboratory of Plant Diseases in Buitenzorg, Java, and Dr. R. D. Rands, botanist in the same laboratory; specially engaged on a study of the brown bast disease of the Hevea rubber, made a journey to Sumatra to study conditions there.

On September 2, 1919, a conference on brown bast disease was held at the A. V. R. O. S. (Algemeene-proefstation voor Rubber-Cultur, Oost-kust van Sumatra) Proefstation. This was attended by Acting Director F. C. van Heurn, of the A. V. R. O. S. Mr. J. C. Maas, and Dr. H. Heuser, also of the A. V. R. O. S., Dr. J. J. van Hall and Dr. R. D. Rands, both of the Laboratory of Plant Disease, Mr. Carl D. La Rue and Mr. P. E. Keuchenius, botanist and mycologist respectively, of the Holland-American Plantations Company, and Dr. J. G. Fol, director of the experiment station of the Cultur Maatschappij Amsterdam.

The cause of the disease was first discussed, Dr. Rands giving recent evidence secured by him pointing to a physiological origin. Mr. Carl D. La Rue stated that results obtained by Professor H. H. Bartlett and himself in 1918, and later by himself alone, indicated that the same bacterium was always present in bark affected with brown bark disease. Mr. Keuchenius stated that he also found bacteria to be constantly present in diseased tissue, and that he had secured positive results from inoculations with these bacteria.

Conditions favorable to attack by the disease were also discussed as well as methods of treat-