

ment and will give him all possible opportunity to demonstrate his power of growth; and that appreciation and material reward will be in proportion to his scientific achievement; he will then be capable of the best that is in him and will cheerfully contribute that best to the credit of the organization that he serves.

A national geological survey should hold recognized leadership in geology in the country to which it belongs and attainment of this proud position must obviously depend upon the quality of its geological personnel. With respect to personnel at least three conditions may be recognized—first, that in which the ablest geologists in the country are drawn to, and remain in service; second, that in which geologists perhaps of a somewhat lower grade as regards scientific promise are attracted to the service for a few years of training and then pass out to positions where the opportunities for research or for increased earnings are greater; and third, that in which able young men no longer look upon the geological survey as a desirable stepping stone to a future career. Who can doubt that it is the first condition that raises an organization to pre-eminence in science and the last that marks opportunities lost or unattained? Those responsible for the success of a geological survey, if they be wise, will watch the trend of the organization with reference to these conditions much as the mariner watches his barometer and, like him, if the indication be threatening, take action to forestall disaster.

F. L. RANSOME

DAVID S. PRATT

DR. DAVID S. PRATT, formerly assistant director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh, died in St. Louis, Mo., on January 28, after a short illness from pneumonia. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and of the following fraternities: Phi Kappa Sigma, Sigma Xi, Alpha Chi Sigma, and Phi Lambda Upsilon.

Dr. David Shepard Pratt was born in Towanda, Pa., on September 20, 1885, the son

of Charles Manville and Louise Hale (Woodford) Pratt. Following the completion of the collegiate course at Cornell University (A.B., 1908), he was appointed a fellow in chemistry at that institution (1909-1911) and in 1911 he received the degree of Ph.D. Dr. Pratt then joined the staff of the Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C., as assistant chemist, but shortly afterward was selected as chief of the Organic Division of the Bureau of Science in Manila, P. I., where he spent three productive years in chemical research and as a member of the Pure Food and Drug Board. In 1914 he decided to return to the states and accepted a professorship of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Pratt occupied that chair and the headship of the organic department of the school of chemistry at "Pitt" from 1914 to 1917, in which year he was made an assistant director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. On January 1, 1920, Dr. Pratt resigned at the institute and was arranging to enter consulting chemical practice in St. Louis, Mo., at the time of his fatal illness.

Dr. Pratt was known principally for his published investigations on phthalic acid derivatives, but his reports of researches on various problems in the domain of tropical chemistry have also been of importance and he was a recognized authority on chemical Philippiniana. At the Mellon Institute Dr. Pratt enjoyed broad opportunities to apply, in the inquiries of the industrial fellowships under his supervision, his splendid equipment in chemistry and many results of technical importance were obtained through his suggestive aid. His profound knowledge of pure organic chemistry and his familiarity with research methodology were respected by his associates and played a prominent part in establishing the high success of the system in operation at the institute. His departure to enter professional practice was sincerely regretted by all of the members of the institution. He is survived by his wife, Fredonia Elizabeth (Johnson) Pratt, and an infant son, David Shepard Pratt, Jr.

W. A. H.