LINCOLN WARE RIDDLE

THE following minute on the life and services of Professor Riddle was placed upon the records of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University at the meeting of June 7, 1921:

Lincoln Ware Riddle was born in Jamaica Plain, Mass., October 17, 1880. He graduated from Harvard in 1902, received the degree of A.M. in 1905, and of Ph.D. in 1906. In the same year he became instructor in botany at Wellesley College. He was appointed professor of botany there in 1917 and held this position for two years, when he came to Harvard as assistant professor of cryptogamic botany and associate curator of the cryptogamic herbarium. At the close of his first year of service upon our faculty he was attacked by the prolonged illness which terminated fatally on the 16th of last January.

The rare enthusiasm and singular devotion which he brought to his work were early made manifest. As a boy of twelve, at the Roxbury Latin School, he declared his purpose to devote his life to botany, and henceforth gave himself unreservedly to its pursuit.

At Wellesley he became deeply interested in lichens, and devoted himself more and more to the study of these plants. He made good use of the important lichen herbarium at Wellesley, and of the unique collection at Harvard, and in 1913, during a year's leave of absence in Europe, studied the collections in Upsala, Helsingfors, Geneva, London and Paris. His publications soon made him a leading authority on the subject.

He was constantly handicapped by a frail physique, but this did not prevent him from accomplishing important scientific work or from taking an active part in the affairs of the community. In his relations with his fellows he was the soul of honor and loyalty, with a personality that drew all men to him. In the class-room his sympathy and friendliness, as well as his clarity of style, made his teaching attractive. His devotion to his students was noteworthy and his influence great and lasting.

In the circle which mourns him his careful scholarship was widely esteemed by his professional associates; he was honored by all for his inspiring ideals, and, beyond the lot of most men, he was sincerely beloved.

WINTHROP J. V. OSTERHOUT,
ROLAND THAXTER,
MERRITT L. FERNALD,
Committee

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PRINTERS' STRIKE AND SCIENCE

IT is perhaps desirable to state that, owing to the strike of compositors for a forty-four hour week, the printers of SCIENCE continue to bring out the journal under serious difficulties. They have, for example, been unable to page the number of *The American Naturalist,* which should have appeared on May 1 and was in type at that time. Owing to the weekly publication of SCIENCE, it has been given precedence, the composition and make-up of the number having been largely done by the heads of departments. It has, however, been necessary to reduce the size of the numbers and to limit the amount of composition as closely as possible. Nearly all advertisers have cooperated with the publication department in using copy already in type and limiting as far as possible new composition. It may again be noted that the strike is nation-wide, affecting, in the east at least, the printing of most scientific journals.

GRANT FOR THE STUDY OF STELLAR PARALLAXES[1]

THE Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has quite recently granted an application made to it to assist in carrying out a piece of research work relating to the determination of the parallaxes of stars having a certain type of spectrum. The grant has been made to Mr. W. B. Rimmer, who up to the present has been employed in spectroscopic researches at the Imperial College of Science and Technology under the direction of Professor A. Fowler, but will now carry out this research at the Norman Lockyer Observatory at Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth. This observatory was founded by the late Sir Norman Lockyer in 1912, and the programme of work has been confined strictly to the photography of the spectra of stars and their subsequent classification according to his scheme of increasing and decreasing temperatures, which has been confirmed in its general features by the more recent work of Russell and Hertzsprung on giant and dwarf stars. The researches of Professor W. S. Adams have now

[1] From *Nature.*

rendered it possible to differentiate almost at a glance between a giant and a dwarf star. As a large amount of spectroscopic material was available at the Norman Lockyer Observatory for the application of Adams's method a trial research was begun. The method is based on a connection found by Adams to exist between the true brightness of a star and the intensity of certain lines in its spectrum. These line-intensities were determined by him by estimation, the plates being examined under a spectro-comparator. At the Norman Lockyer Observatory the method employed is to cover the lines gradually with a dark wedge, the position of which when a line is obliterated indicates the intensity of the line. The results of this trial research have proved very satisfactory, and were commented upon very favorably by Professor H. N. Russell on the occasion of a visit to the observatory. The above grant has been awarded to aid the extension of this research to all stars of suitable type down to declination $-10°$ and of magnitude 6.5 and brighter. It is very opportune, for the staff of the observatory is small, and the work could not have been undertaken without such additional help.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY YALE UNIVERSITY

At the commencement exercises on June 22 honorary degrees were conferred on several men of science. In presenting them Professor Phelps spoke as follows:

Master of Arts

Isaiah Bowman: formerly assistant professor of geography at Yale. Director of the American Geographical Society and editor of its *Bulletin*. He has led geological and geographical expeditions in South America. In 1917 he received the Gold Medal of the Geographical Society in Paris. He was the executive head of the house inquiry, being chosen for proved fitness. He did valuable work on boundaries for the Peace Commission in Paris. He is one more illustration of a college professor becoming so generally useful that the college is unable to keep him.

Doctors of Science

Hideyo Noguchi: distinguished Japanese scholar, M.D., Tokyo, 1897. He has made important discoveries in the treatment and prevention of smallpox and yellow fever. He is an honorary professor of three universities in South America; he has been given the Order of Merit by the Emperor of Japan. He is a striking fulfillment of the Scripture prophecy—"Seest thou a man diligent in business? He shall stand before kings." Dr. Noguchi has received the order of knighthood from three Kings—the Kings of Spain, Denmark and Sweden. Perhaps he appreciates even more than royal honors the admiration and gratitude of the people.

Madame Marie Curie: Marie Sklodowska was born in Warsaw and has always been a scientist; her father was a distinguished professor and her husband, Pierre Curie, will never be forgotten. She was educated at Warsaw and at Paris, and has been professor of radiology at Paris. It is superfluous to mention her discoveries in science, and now she has discovered America. She has often encountered dangers in scientific experiments, but nothing so dangerous as American hospitality; it is to be hoped she will not be a woman killed with kindness. She is unique. There is only one thing rarer than genius, and that is radium. She illustrates the combination of both.

Doctor of Laws

Sir Robert Jones: the leading British orthopædist. One of the many distinguished men contributed to the world by Wales. Lecturer on orthopædic surgery at the University of Liverpool; member of many learned societies, author of many books, recipient of many degrees to which number Yale is proud to add one more. Enormously useful during the war. He had charge of the orthopædic work of the British government 1914–1918. It is largely owing to him that England maintained during the war a position so characteristically upright.

James Rowland Angell: president-elect of Yale. Born in Vermont, a graduate of the University of Michigan. Professor and acting president of the University of Chicago. Exchange professor at the Sorbonne. At home anywhere and everywhere. Son of a great college president and ideally prepared to be one himself. Trained in scholarly research and in executive duties. A teacher of exceptional power. He has a thorough understanding of America's needs in higher edu-