GEORGE TRUMBULL LADD

George Trumbull Ladd, for forty years professor of moral philosophy and metaphysics at Yale University, died on August 8, at the age of eighty-one years.

In the eighties and nineties, Ladd was a towering figure, through his academic leadership, in the introduction of the new psychology. This was the period in which physiological, experimental, genetic and abnormal psychology gained recognition in the college curriculum of this country, and Ladd did much to bring this recognition. Yet, he was not primarily a psychologist and did no experimental work in any of the fields which he so ably introduced. He came into psychology through philosophy, and had come into philosophy through theology. History will probably recognize him as an organizer rather than an inspirer, or an original contributor in specific problems.

While always regarded as more or less dry, his books and lectures were characterized by remarkable clearness, accuracy, thoroughness, broadmindedness and chasteness of style and a pleasing absence of the irrelevant. His definitions were those of a logician; his scientific perspective was that of a philosopher; his power of appeal was that of the forceful teacher. The fidelity and constructive analysis with which he interpreted the findings of research men in physiology, physics, medicine and genetics gave dignity and permanence to his work. The encyclopedic character of his work shows him at his best in his power to organize for himself and put in teachable form these new and diverse approaches to the study of the human mind. His "Elements of Physiological Psychology" and "Psychology Descriptive and Explanatory" will live as classics from that period.

His conservatism was another feature which gave his work in that period prestige and success. Wundt, Ribot, Galton, James, Hall, Cattell, Baldwin, Scripture, and others, each came out with a different brand of psychology which was bound to draw out some temporary antagonism; but Ladd welcomed all these and quieted the turbulent waters by certifying and formulating as a philosopher, as a preacher and as a teacher what was "wholesome" and giving it a setting in academic psychology. As an original thinker, Ladd's power lay not in the scientist's observation and discovery within a narrow field, but rather in the power of a great thinker to interpret and organize new and relevant facts.

His utterances on mental evolution, on mental measurement, on disorders of personality, on "psychology without a soul," make most interesting reading from the present point of view. The new points of view are all in his work, but their presentation is so sagaciously qualified as to make the present reader question whether he had actually recognized the real significance of these new concepts in psychology. Yet, it was this mode of conservative thought and guarded statement that gave stability to his teaching and made it for many years the orthodox point of view in the new psychology. He made the transition not only from philosophy to psychology but also from theology to psychology and from common sense view of daily life to scientific psychology without any break or antagonism.

Ladd's influence in psychology was cut short by an unfortunate breaking up of the department in the late nineties, which led to his premature retirement and deprived him of the contact with the younger working constituency and the opportunity of projecting himself through such a constituency. His interest then turned to interpretative psychology through his various books on psychology as applied to philosophy, ethics, æsthetics, social life, and religion. His appeal was here to the general reader, and in this field his utterances are characterized by the same traits that we found in the earlier academic period.

C. E. Seashore

The National Research Council,
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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH IMPERIAL BUREAU OF MYCOLOGY

In 1918 the British Imperial War Conference had brought to its notice the loss to

the empire caused by fungoid diseases of plants.

A Canadian estimate places the loss in the year 1917, in the prairie region of Canada alone, at 100,000,000 bushels, worth from £25,000,000 to £50,000,000. For the same year, the loss in the five chief cereals of the United States due to this fungus was placed at 400,000,000 bushels. The annual loss on Indian wheat is estimated in millions of rupees.

A proposal was adopted for the establishment of a central organization to encourage and coordinate work throughout the Empire on fungi in relation to agriculture. The Colonial Office has brought the necessary negotations to a successful issue, and has now formed a mycological bureau supported by contributions from the various self-governing Dominions, India, Egypt, the Sudan, and the non-self-governing Colonies and Protectorates. The precedent of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology has been followed, and the new institution is to be managed by a committee of experts under the chairmanship of Lord Harcourt. The headquarters of the bureau are to be at Kew, and it is to work in close association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, where there are already a magnificent library, laboratories, and a department for fungi in the museum.

CERAMIC INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF MINES

A NEW ceramic laboratory, in which investigative work regarding the clays of the Northwest will be conducted, is to be installed at the Northwest Experiment Station of the United States Bureau of Mines on the campus of the University of Washington at Seattle.

The laboratory work in connection with a general study of the clays of Washington has been completed, and a bulletin on the subject of Washington clays is now in course of preparation.

At the Northwest Experiment Station an attempt is being made to remove iron and silicon from kaolin to produce either sillimanite or the oxide of aluminum. Clay was melted in an arcing furnace in presence of carbon; some silicon and iron were volatilized and some reduced to metal. The products contained less iron oxide and silica and more alumina than previously, but not in sufficient amounts to be sillimanite. The refractoriness of these products is to be determined by the ordinary tests.

A cooperative agreement has been effected between the United States Bureau of Mines and the Central of Georgia Railway for an investigation by the Ceramic Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio, of the white clay and bauxites through central Georgia along the railroad right-of-way. R. B. Gilmore, formerly ceramic chemist with the Vesuvius Crucible Co., Swissvale, Pa., and H. M. Kraner, formerly ceramic assistant of the Bureau of Mines, have been assigned to this work. Preliminary tests on the effects of low calcination temperatures on the colloidal content of Georgia white clays have been made. By calcining Georgia clay to from 500° to 600° C. the adsorptive properties were reduced to those of the English china clay, without materially reducing its plasticity.

A microscopic examination of the mineral constituent of kaolins is being conducted at the Ceramic Experiment Station at Columbus.

THE BIOLOGY CLUB OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DURING the academic year of 1920–21, the Biology Club of the Ohio State University held monthly meetings from October to May, inclusive. The club, organized in 1891, is one of the oldest organizations of the university. It is composed of members of the science faculties, graduate students, and those interested in scientific research. Opportunity has been given the past year for discussions of scientific experimentation and investigation by members of the faculties, and reports of research by graduate students. The following papers were presented:

Oct. 11. Reports on a survey of Ohio fishes.
1. "Distribution of Ohio fishes," Professor R. C. Osburn.
2. "Food of the large mouth bass," E. L. Wickliff.
3. "Algal food of the gizzard shad," L. H. Tiffany.
Nov. 2. "The Hessian fly in Ohio," Professor T. H. Parks.