

divisions during the course. This shows that no class could have been even approximately grouped for the entire course on the basis of the first year's averages.

Finally those men in the group who had first year averages of less than 72 per cent. were picked out. It was thought that these were the borderline men, students who might have been dismissed from school had their grades been only one or two per cent. lower. The object was to observe the further progress of this group with regard to the other students. There were 15, or 16.8 per cent., of the students with a first year average under 72 per cent. Forty per cent. of them had their pre-medical training at Washington University, 40 per cent. at the smaller colleges, and 20 per cent. at state universities.

At the end of the fourth year 40 per cent. of these men had grades above the average for the senior year, 20 per cent. ranked in the upper third of the senior class, 27 per cent. in the middle third, and only 53 per cent. in the lower third. Of the 20 per cent. in the upper third of the senior class, one third had pre-medical training at Washington University, one third at a small college, and one third at a state university. The middle and lower thirds were equally divided between the small colleges and the universities. So it would seem that if poor preliminary training were the cause for the low first year average of these students we must blame the universities equally with the smaller colleges, for the percentage of advance in grade was equally divided between students from Washington University and such colleges as Central, Missouri Valley, Southwestern, and Christian Brothers'.

As almost 50 per cent. of these men who might easily have been dismissed from school on their first year's record made mediocre and even excellent students during their senior year, the question arises as to how many of the men with first year grades just below 70 per cent. who are now dismissed from school might reach the upper third of their class were they allowed to remain. Can we say it would be less than 20 per cent.? Yes, because many questions are considered in giving a student a grade just under or just over 70 per cent.,

amongst them being just this possibility of improvement. However, these figures should make us in the future think even more carefully before declaring a student unfit for the study of medicine on the basis of his first year's record.

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### CHARLES BASKERVILLE

THE death of Charles Baskerville, last January, was a great calamity to the chemical profession. His end was premature—he was nearing 52 years of age—and it brought a poignant sense of bereavement to his numerous friends. He did not live to see his life's work done, but he departed from a world which will evermore be the richer for having once had him.

Deeply and peculiarly American, an aristocrat by birth, Charles Baskerville was nevertheless broad and cosmopolitan in all his educational work, and honored by his students, pedagogic associates and professional colleagues. A man of high quality whose poise and personality early established leadership, his cheerfulness, sympathetic helpfulness and constant productivity brought the admiration and respect of all who had the privilege of being near him.

For thirty years Charles Baskerville occupied a prominently successful position in chemical education (University of North Carolina, his *alma mater*, 1891-1904; College of the City of New York since 1904); but, in addition, he found time for the conduct of original researches of value (first on the rare earths and later on the chemistry of anesthetics), while his inventions in the refining and hydrogenation of vegetable oils, plastic compositions and reinforced metals are of recognized industrial importance.

In addition to 190 educational, scientific and technologic papers, Charles Baskerville was the author of the following books: "School Chemistry," 1898; "Key to School Chemistry," 1898; "Radium and Its Applications in Medicine," 1906; "General Inorganic Chemistry," 1909; "Laboratory Exercises" (with R. W. Curtis), 1909; "Progressive Problems in Chemistry" (with W. L. Estabrooke), 1910; "Quali-

tative Analysis" (with L. J. Curtman), 1910; "Municipal Chemistry" (with other experts), 1911; and "Anesthesia" (with J. T. Gwathmey), 1914.

Charles Baskerville became a member of the American Chemical Society in 1894 and later, as councilor and chairman of important committees, rendered much valuable service. His activities on the society's committee on occupational diseases in the chemical industries were especially prominent. He was one of the most constant attendants upon the annual meetings, effectively laboring for the best interests of the society. He was also a fellow of the London Chemical Society, a member of the Society of Chemical Industry, of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, of the American Electrochemical Society, of the Washington and New York Academies of Science, of the Franklin Institute, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Charles Baskerville's great forte was in making practical suggestions for the better conduct of affairs. At North Carolina and later at the College of the City of New York, he was respected as an able teacher who kept in close and sympathetic touch with his students; but he did not confine himself to the teaching side of education. Upon the completion of the chemical laboratory of the College of the City of New York, which he designed, he took rank among the foremost laboratory directors of the United States. He was indeed an organizer and administrator of the highest order. Indomitably energetic in his executive duties, and aided by an active staff of carefully selected chemical specialists, he succeeded in establishing and operating a strong department, and in consequence his influence extended throughout the institution. Constantly alert to help and keenly interested in bettering conditions, his accomplishments for his associates were numerous. His most attractive personal characteristics led to friendships of weight, which, in turn, benefited his colleagues and students.

An intellect more powerful from its happy union of scientific ability with broad culture has probably not been seen in the American chemical profession. He was inferior to none in extent of literary acquirement, in penetra-

ting and fertile executive ingenuity, and in general equipoise of mind. And withal he tried to be his "own man," generous, kindly and sympathetic. The spirit of goodness is ever the same; but the modes of its manifestation are numberless, and every sterling man is original. The vigor and sincerity of this sterling man made his friendship a treasure.

W. A. HAMOR

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PENSION AND INSURANCE PLAN OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

A PENSION and insurance plan for the Princeton University teaching staff was adopted on June 19 by the board of trustees at their annual meeting, held in connection with the university's one hundred and seventy-fifth commencement exercises. It provides for the raising of a special fund of \$1,000,000 not later than 1925, to provide the money that will be required under the trustees' action.

The plan, which was placed before the trustees by a special pension committee of which John O. H. Pittney is chairman, supplements the provisions of the Carnegie Foundation, of which about 90 per cent. of the faculty are at present beneficiaries.

Any member of the university teaching staff may, under the plan approved, retire at the age of 65, and every member must retire at 68, provided, however, that in special cases by a vote of the board of trustees an individual may be continued in active service beyond the retiring age period not exceeding three years.

The general provisions of the plan are as follows:

Every member so retiring shall be entitled to receive during the remainder of his life an annual retiring allowance equal to one half of his annual salary as teacher at retirement:

Provided that the obligation of the university shall be reduced by the amount of any Carnegie or similar allowance to which any such member may be entitled. Any member so retiring, not immediately entitled to a Carnegie allowance, shall receive from the university his half salary as before defined (with such additions thereto as may be necessary to qualify him for the maximum Carnegie allowance) until he is entitled to maximum allowance under the Carnegie rules. Any