Trowbridge died in 1907 and his own death occurred in his eightieth year, on the eighteenth of February, 1923.

The earlier part of the long period during which Professor Trowbridge was a member of the teaching staff of Harvard College was characterized by the development of laboratory methods in teaching, and by the recognition of research as one of the fundamental activities of the department of physics. Keenly alive to the lack of adequate facilities for the advancement of his chosen field along these lines at Harvard, Trowbridge projected a great physical laboratory and found the means to construct it. When the laboratory was begun, models for such a building were altogether lacking in this country. Nevertheless, so excellent was its design that it still affords adequate facilities for teaching and research; it forms a lasting monument to the genius of the man who planned it.

For thirty years Professor Trowbridge presided as director over the destinies of the Jefferson Laboratory, devoting part of his time to teaching and a larger part to experimental investigation. Problems connected with spectrum analysis and with the conduction of electricity through gases attracted his attention; and his contributions to scientific literature on these subjects were considerable. It was during the progress of these researches that he realized the importance of a constant source of high potential; accordingly he caused the great storage battery to be constructed, which, unique in its time, is still in constant use, and which has proved of the highest value in the study of X-rays.

To the characteristics of foresight and imagination, Trowbridge added the rare gift of stimulating intellectual activity in others. This stimulus was felt by many classes of persons and produced useful results in varied fields. Under his guidance, many men who have won distinction in science took up problems in research for the first time; among them should be mentioned the late Professor B. O. Peirce and the late Professor W. C. Sabine.

Professor Trowbridge's personality was manifested not only in the intellectual activity which he exhibited, inspired and fostered, but also in unselfish and constant devotion to the needs of his students and colleagues. Both traits of his character contributed toward the sentiment of respect and affection with which his memory will ever be cherished by those who came under his influence.

THEODORE LYMAN
THEODORE W. RICHARDS
GEORGE W. PIERCE
Committee

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MEMORIAL TO CHARLES R. VAN HISE

IN memory of the late Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, former president of the University of Wisconsin, a large quartzite rock in Ableman will be dedicated as "The Van Hise Rock" on June 3 with appropriate ceremonies and a tablet marker will be placed upon the rock. The rock is of great interest to geologists and it is considered especially fitting that this rock should be dedicated to President Van Hise, because as a geologist he frequently took his students to the rock and used it in explaining geological theories.

Judge E. Ray Stevens, Madison, president of the State Historical Society, will preside at the dedication. Others who will assist in the ceremonies are Professor C. K. Leith, chairman of the university department of geology; John S. Donald, head of the Friends of Our Native Landscape; W. O. Hotchkiss, state geologist; Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society; and Dean Harry L. Russell, of the College of Agriculture.

Part of the inscription on the tablet marker is as follows:

This rock is pictured in geology text-books as a type illustrating important principles of structural geology and has been a point of special interest to many investigators in geology visiting this region. President Charles R. Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, was one of the first and foremost of these.

PROTECTION FOR THE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH[1]

FRENCH law protects effectively the rights of authors of literary works, musical composers, painters and sculptors, but this is not true of scientists and inventors. The act of 1844, to be sure, provides for the granting of patents on inventions, but in reality only inventions strictly industrial in their nature come within the scope of this law. No pharmaceutic products or remedies of any kind may be patented. This state of affairs has recently given rise to sharp criticism. It has been emphasized that it is unjust that biologic discoveries and inventions which are of the greatest practical value in agriculture, in veterinary science and in human

[1] *The Journal of the American Medical Association.*