

different from those existing between Dr. Biggs and the many other organizations of which he was a member. It was Dr. Biggs who first suggested the establishment of this council. It was his clear vision of the desirability of separating administrative from legislative duties in the field of health, and of placing the latter in the hands of a group, which led the legislature and executive of this state, in 1913, in the revision of the public health law, to create the Public Health Council, and to endow it with quasi-legislative authority.

Dr. Biggs was chairman of the council from its organization until his death. While his official position and his exceptional experience gave him at all times a very great influence in the council, he always sought the consensus of opinion of the council on all important matters of policy. The development of a sanitary code, dealing with matters which the staff of the department and its local representatives were able to manage administratively, has been the chief duty of the council. Not infrequently, however, at council meetings, all routine matters were brushed aside by the commissioner, in order to bring forward some proposed policy or action on which he desired the advice of the council. It is indicative of Dr. Biggs' wise caution that before action he sought to clarify his own judgment and opinions in the light of group discussion.

To every member of the council it has been one of the most interesting and gratifying experiences of life to observe the consistent and continuous development of the policy and the organization of the State of New York in public health under Dr. Biggs' direction. His plans were always far-sighted and comprehensive, but he was always ready to take, at any time, those steps which might then be practicable. If further advances were blocked in one direction, he sought opportunities of moving forward in other directions. Thus, step by step, we have been privileged to witness the development of one of the most important branches of the state government from relatively small beginnings into one of the most complete and effective of public health organizations. The council feels itself unable to indicate in any adequate way the loss to the people of this state which is involved in the death of Dr. Biggs.

His personal qualities, his patience, his soundness of judgment, his unerring estimate of public opinion, his skill in the selection of assistants, and in securing from them their loyal support and the best work of which they were capable, these, as also his many other exceptional gifts, were universally recognized.

The council deplors the death of Dr. Biggs and inspired by his work pledges itself to renewed devotion to the cause for which he labored so fruitfully.

#### THE DEANSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UNIVER- SITY OF ARKANSAS

THE agricultural interests of Arkansas are deeply concerned in the choice of the new dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Arkansas. The

entire faculty of that college has addressed to President J. C. Futrall the following letter on the subject:

In view of the fact that the success of the College of Agriculture in its several branches, namely, teaching, station and extension work, and that the working conditions surrounding the members of the staff are in very great measure dependent upon the actions and policies of the dean and director, we trust that we may, without impropriety, set before you our views concerning the type of man that should be appointed to this position:

As director of the teaching in the college, he should be thoroughly familiar with the modern trend of education in agricultural colleges.

As head of the agricultural extension forces, he should be a man who has a grasp of the problems peculiar to that branch of service.

In our judgment, since the Agricultural Experiment Station is the branch of the work that must continually vitalize and enrich all the others, the dean and director should be a man who, through first-hand experience, understands the methods and purposes of modern agricultural experiment.

It is, therefore, highly desirable that the dean and director should have had recent experience in an agricultural college and experiment station lines of activity that have brought him into intimate contact with the problems of such an institution.

While we believe it is desirable to appoint a dean as soon as may be, yet we feel strongly that wise discretion should not be sacrificed to haste in this important matter.

We respectfully request that these suggestions be seriously considered, and that they be transmitted to the board of trustees of the university.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION MEETING

THERE is printed in *Nature* an article by Mr. M. A. Giblett on the scientific exhibition at Liverpool in which he says:

The ninety-first annual meeting of the British Association, which has just drawn to a close at Liverpool, was characterized by a new and important departure in the form of an exhibition of scientific apparatus, instruments and diagrams. The exhibition was on the lines of that organized each year in London by the Physical and Optical Societies, which is so effective in bringing together the users and makers of physical apparatus, but its scope was naturally wider, and many branches of pure and applied science were represented.

In opening the exhibition on Monday, September 10, Sir Charles Sherrington commented upon the comprehensive and representative character of the exhibits, remarking that it was very appropriate that such a collection should be brought together, and that this—the first of its kind—constituted a definite