Diseases must be studied in family trees. There are even pathological races of people, set off by atavism. Each disease is only a member or term of a series—*e.g.*, the rheumatic series (purpura, urticaria, pemphigus, erythema, endocarditis, chorea, arthritis), or the gouty series (dyspepsia, arthritis, phlebitis, arteritis, nephritis, angina pectoris, migraine, hypochondria, insanity, eczema, glycosuria, neuritis, bronchitis, tonsillitis, haemorrhoids, purpura). Fever is a thermo-ataxia. Gout implies the metabolism of a bird. Infection and immunity are analogues of impregnation and sterility in sexual congress. Each locality or race has diseases peculiar to it. Each tropical country has its own kind of tropical medicine. Malarial fever in a locality usually connotes infrequency of cancer, typhoid, phthisis, insanity (neurosyphilis) and epilepsy. Poisons of active principle (acid) type produce hyperthermy, poisons of alkaloidal (basic) type hypothermy. Curare turns a mammal into a cold blooded animal. Poisoning and dextoxication turn upon isomerisms and molecular vibrations.

That all this was written over 35 years ago is a measure of the splendid scientific scholarship of Allbutt. Alas! that medical literature should be a motley proliferation of the well-born, the plebeian, the upstart and the bounder; that Starling's classification of physiology should tuck titles into wonderfully considered compartments where only Starling can find them;[2] and that we must still stick to the old caravansary plan of Billings and Fletcher, with suites, bedrooms and cubby-holes for all and sundry. By 1906, Allbutt himself had come around to this view: "The best labels for diseases are such names as epilepsy, measles, leprosy, Graves's disease and the like, which, having no attachment to hypotheses, are readily carried to new anchorages."

Three mental traits distinguished Allbutt: an innate and almost touching modesty, a fitting reverence for the past, the liveliest sympathy with the present and the future. His Finlayson Memorial Lecture begins: "I would that my lecture to-day were more worthy of him." His Harveian Oration concludes: "We celebrate the memory of great men in the certain hope that in their children they will be born again." His message to the future is that the wars and squabbles of mankind are due to mistaking the names and labels (personal opinions) of things for the things themselves, and that "almost any reform is possible so long as names are not touched." Our rough-neck post-bellum world will not find his match in noblesse of mind and nobility of character.

F. H. GARRISON

ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

[2] International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, Schedule of Classification, Q.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

JOHN FILLMORE HAYFORD

THE following minute has been adopted by the Chaos Club of Chicago:

In the passing of John Fillmore Hayford on the tenth of March, 1925, the Chaos Club has lost an esteemed member, a genial and friendly companion, an earnest devotee of research, a productive scholar.

Professor Hayford's training as a civil engineer prepared him directly for his life work which he found in the field of geodesy. His high regard for accuracy, his fine sense of good method in assembling and discussing data, his unlimited perseverance in pursuing a problem, his experience in field work, equipped him in an eminent degree for the enormous task of fitting an ellipsoid to the surface of the earth. Recognition is now given to the success of this work in the adoption of the Hayford ellipsoid by the Geophysical Union at the recent meetings in Madrid. It will now serve as the basis of reference for all the great national surveys.

Perhaps no less important than his determination of the size and figure of the earth is his work on isostatic compensation within its surface. His careful discussion of available data led to the substantiation and acceptance of the principle of isostasy.

Aside from his great service in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, he devoted his labors to engineering education. He was an instructor in civil engineering at Cornell University from 1895 to 1898, and in 1909 he came to Northwestern University as director of the newly organized School of Engineering. His clear conception of the proper relation of his profession to society and his keen appreciation of the value of research work, his own indefatigable labor were conspicuous qualifications for such an appointment.

While at Northwestern University he had devoted himself to the very difficult problem of the surface levels of the Great Lakes, the source of supply, evaporation, periodic fluctuations, effect of winds and barometric pressure, seiches. Reports have been made on some phases of this very intricate problem, but unfortunately it remains unfinished.

Professor Hayford's counsel was in demand in various fields of engineering; he served on a commission to determine the boundary between Panama and Costa Rica; he was a member of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; he was greatly interested in the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; he was an author of valuable text-books; his voice was heard in many geodetic conferences. He was scholarly by every instinct and according to every standard of measurement, and of his students demanded the like. He was a valuable citizen, giving loyal, enthusiastic and unsparing service to his government in peace and in war, to the community, and to society.

The members of the Chaos Club wish to express their feeling of deep loss and to extend their sympathy to Mrs. Hayford and the other members of Professor Hayford's family.