

dent of the plant as a living object than as a subject for minute dissection, and therefore tried to interest his students in that aspect of botany, although recognizing the need for the other and giving instruction in it. Always the practical sides of a problem seemed to interest Dr. Beal. He felt that botany should be truly a handmaid to agriculture. Thus he carried on studies on weeds, the viability of seeds, etc. Yet a scientific discovery, if fundamental, was always able to arouse his enthusiasm, even if its practical aspects were not in the least discernible.

To the end of his long life the botany of the great out-of-doors was Dr. Beal's great delight. Even in his last months, when unable to walk on account of illness, he would have his chair wheeled out-of-doors and would call attention to various things of botanical interest.

Dr. Beal came of Quaker stock and preserved to the end the sterling honesty of action and speech instilled in him by his parents. Laziness he could not abide. He sought no vacations and never could bring himself to "loaf." Thus it was possible for him with no assistance in the greater part of his teaching career to train so many men who have carried forward the torch laid down by him at his death on May 12, 1924. His work lives after him in the many botanists and other scientists for whom he was the inspiration.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CENTENARY OF HUXLEY

THE centenary of the birth of Huxley was celebrated on May 4 by the Imperial College of Science and Technology with a lecture by Professor E. B. Poulton, an exhibition in the department of zoology, and a reception given by Lord and Lady Buckmaster. Lord Buckmaster is chairman of the governing body of the college. Mr. Herbert Wright presided and the vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Sir Charles Sherrington.

According to the report in the *London Times*, the lecturer began his address with a message from Sir Ray Lankester, the life-long friend of Huxley. He then discussed the early days of Huxley, and described some of the disappointments that he faced and overcame and some of the obstacles that impeded him when first he began to seek work of a definitely scientific character. The heights that Huxley reached, said Professor Poulton, were attained only by dauntless effort and determination.

The lecturer, continuing, referred to Huxley's keen sense of humor, and described how in admonishing an acquaintance he said: "You do not suffer fools gladly, you gladly make fools suffer." In declining an in-

itation to a spiritualistic gathering he said that it might all be true, for anything that he knew to the contrary, but he could not get up any interest in the subject, and disembodied gossip had no more interest for him than any other form of gossip. In discussing the controversial side of Huxley's career, Professor Poulton said that in disputes there was never any bitterness or estrangement; difference was never allowed to spread beyond the issue. Though Huxley became so effective a speaker, it was only the result of determination and practice. Before delivering his first lecture he said: "I can now quite understand how it feels to be going to be hanged." The clear and beautiful style of his writing was developed in the same way, and very often he would write an essay half a dozen times before he was satisfied with it. To Huxley Tennyson was the first poet since Lucretius who had understood the drift of science.

Much had been written in the press lately, the lecturer continued, about the need for books on economic subjects, but so far as he knew no reference had been made to Huxley's essays on that subject. Much misery would have been spared to the world if the advice he gave had been followed; he wanted to be remembered as a man who loved the people.

The best of Huxley's work, Professor Poulton said, was in his lectures to working men. They were greatly touched by what he did for them, and loved him for it. The great thing in his career was his defense of Darwin, leading on to the wider subject of his defense of freedom of thought. The lecturer discussed the weight of the traditional beliefs that lay in the path of the development of scientific inquiry at the time when Huxley was at the height of his career. No doubt his hard fight for a principle gave pain to many, but he never intentionally gave pain nor flippantly attacked the beliefs of others, and the privilege of the present freedom that we enjoy to pursue scientific investigations is due more to Huxley than to anybody else.

The chairman, in his speech, said that it was hoped that it might be possible to raise a permanent memorial to Huxley. The exhibition included rare books and a selection of Huxley's drawings in the Huxley Library, and a number of scientific exhibits elsewhere. There were exhibits and demonstrations by the various departments of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the evening.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

At the closing session of the administrative council of the American Engineering Council in Philadelphia on May 10, support was pledged to the reorganization