

### JOHN MASON CLARKE<sup>1</sup>

DR. CLARKE was so delightfully human, so broad in his culture and interests, that we always looked forward to a visit from him with keen anticipation of enjoyment, and to the strengthening of the spirit of friendship and good fellowship. Out in the open, the inspiration of nature unsealed the floodgates of his thought, and there flowed forth a stream of logical reasoning and beautiful imagery, picturing the chapters of earth history so vividly that it lingered long in memory and fundamentally influenced the listener's conceptions of the development of the earth.

In the laboratory his thorough, systematic method of investigation of material gathered from three continents led to discussions and reasoning that clarified many moot questions, and when he had written out in classic diction his final conclusions, it was a pleasure to read and discuss them with him. After the day's work was over, a stroll out of doors in summer, or a seat before the fire in winter served to stimulate another side of his most agreeable and versatile nature. On such occasions, we would glimpse his philosophy of life and his keen interest in human affairs, as well as his undying loyalty to his native state and his ideals of what a scientific man should stand for. He believed that in addition to being an investigator he should be a good citizen, taking an active constructive part in the community in which he lived. He could not tolerate fraud, deception or sharp practice in any phase of scientific or other human affairs, and he did not hesitate to denounce in private and public any move on the part of communities or individuals that appeared to him to reflect on the people of the State of New York or their scientific and educational activities.

New York State owes to Dr. Clarke an eternal debt of gratitude for preserving the records of its scientific activities of ninety years or more, and for developing and carrying on, as a part of the educational system of the state, a museum unexcelled among state museums. James Hall, the founder of the museum and the great scientific leader of New York State for fifty years, died with the impression that there was no one who would take sufficient interest to carry it forward as an educational factor in the life of the oncoming generations of the people of the state. He did not fully realize that the young man who had been associated with him for years had all the qualities essential to successfully sustain the work of the world-renowned State Geological Survey, and the upbuilding of a model state museum.

<sup>1</sup> Address made at the sixty-first convocation of the University of the State of New York.

Dr. Clarke, by birth, training, ability and spirit, was the ideal successor of James Hall, and it is to the honor and credit of the Regents of the University that they recognized his ability and fitness for the task and assigned it to him. Dr. Clarke effectively carried on an important and valuable work, yet so quietly and modestly was it done that even those closely associated with him did not fully realize the contribution that he was making to science and to the reputation of the people of the state. His passing is a distinct loss to scientific interests in America, and to intelligent humanity throughout the world. The influence of such a personality extends through the medium of kindred minds to the men and women and to the boys and girls who are to be the future leaders and guardians of the material and spiritual welfare of the people of every nation.

His life and public service are a splendid illustration of the inestimable value of the right sort of early home influence, followed by cultural growth based on school and college training of a high order, and subsequent association with men and women of fine ideals and sense of duty. I wish that some one would write the simple story of his life, and that it might be made available to every student within the jurisdiction of the Regents of the University of the State of New York. He was a New York State boy, and a product of its system of education, from childhood until he laid down his responsibilities and passed on.

Dr. Clarke was my life-long friend and I am glad to take this opportunity to pay tribute to him. He was an exceptional man, a scientist of a high order of excellence, an unselfish, public-spirited citizen, and a humane, Christian gentleman.

CHARLES D. WALCOTT

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### AN OSLER MEMORIAL VOLUME

THE International Association of Medical Museums will shortly issue a memorial volume of appreciations, anecdotes and reminiscences of Sir William Osler by over a hundred colleagues, friends and pupils. The volume is prefaced by a foreword from Professor William H. Welch and a proëm by the late Sir Clifford Allbutt, followed by some 600 pages of memorial contributions, with over 60 engravings and half-tone illustrations. At the end, there is a complete reasoned bibliography of the writings of Osler, based upon the chronical bibliographies already published by Miss Minnie W. Blogg (Baltimore) and Dr. Maude E. Abbott (Montreal), followed by a bibliography of "Writings about Osler," and a list of advance subscribers. The Osler bibliography is as complete as the labor of several efficient collaborators could make it, and has been extensively annotated,