

DR. WELCH AND THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY¹

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

ALMOST half a century ago, Dr. Welch entered upon the course leading him to the choice of pathology as a profession, with the momentous consequences for the advancement of medical science and teaching with which his name is permanently associated.

With amazing insight he perceived, while still a medical student, the profound part which the new cellular pathology was destined to play in the history of medicine. Fortunately for us, and aided by unusual natural abilities, he happily directed his attention to the mastery of that subject.

Although at the outset of his medical career he made use of the opportunities afforded to perfect his training in the clinical branches, he never permitted himself to be diverted from his main objective. He became, therefore, in due time, an accomplished pathologist, possessed of first-hand knowledge of clinical problems and methods, with which unusual though essential combination he entered upon the cultivation of the wide field of pathology by anatomical, physiological, biological and chemical means.

His forerunners and teachers in America and Europe had pursued pathology along particular lines—of morbid anatomy, of histology or bacteriology, or of physiology. It remained for Dr. Welch, fortified by the mastery of all these special disciplines, to establish in Baltimore, at the Johns Hopkins University, a school—the first of its kind—in which all these branches should be united and blended into a school of pathology as broad and complete as the subject itself.

For this remarkable undertaking, Dr. Welch was well equipped by nature. Having inherited a mind of extraordinary vigor, incisiveness and compass, and a judgment almost unerring, his studious habits and powers of concentration, perfected under real masters, quickly yielded him a fund of knowledge, historical and recent, covering many scientific and literary subjects, which he applied with rare skill and charm to the teaching of pathology in its particular and general aspects.

The publications issuing from the pathological laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University during the years of Dr. Welch's professorate, and the many pupils who streamed through its portals, are witnesses to the high activity of that temple of learning. The investigations carried forward in pathology, bacteriology and immunology were varied, numerous and

¹ Address given on the occasion of the unveiling of a bust of Dr. William H. Welch at the commemoration day exercises of the Johns Hopkins University on February 22.

significant; while the men who year by year received their training from him now fill the important chairs of pathology in ever increasing numbers.

Within a generation, through Dr. Welch's influence, pathology in the United States has been elevated from an inconspicuous position in the medical curriculum to the high state to which it is entitled by reason of its importance for advancing the knowledge of disease.

As the first member of the prospective faculty of medicine of the university, Dr. Welch, in association with President Gilman and the trustees of the university and hospital, had a large share in assembling the remarkable group of men who staffed the hospital and started the medical school, and as dean and nestor of the faculty, by his advanced and sound educational views, he fostered that extraordinary development which quickly placed the Johns Hopkins Medical School in the front rank of eminence.

Thus, directly by the example of the achievements of the medical school, and indirectly through his printed addresses, Dr. Welch became the outstanding influence in bringing about the remarkable transformation, material and educational, which has taken place in medical teaching and research in the United States within the past two decades—changes so profound and far-reaching as to be almost without parallel in history.

And most wonderful of all, after his retirement from the professorship of pathology, Dr. Welch organized the School of Hygiene and Public Health, which, in boldness of planning and originality of conception and breadth of execution, stands supreme and unique. Possessed of wide knowledge of similar institutions existing elsewhere, of the complex foundations on which the pursuit of hygiene should rest, and with sympathetic understanding of the leading parts to be played by the newer biology and chemistry in solving public health problems, Dr. Welch brought together a remarkable staff which, under the magic of his influence, and within a very few years, has, by its performances in many fields, rendered the institution world-famous and led to its imitation by other fortunate countries.

As a citizen, Dr. Welch has set a high standard by taking part in many public activities, affecting not only the city of Baltimore, the state of Maryland and the United States at large, but also foreign countries. Many are the projects that have benefited by his wise and disinterested counsel.

On the 8th of April, 1925, Dr. Welch celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday. A group of his friends, among whom I am happy to state are numbered the president and trustees of this university, desired to commemorate the event in an adequate manner. With his

usual graciousness, Dr. Welch fell in with the plans, and, after due consideration, it was decided that the purposes and wishes of the group could best be met by the execution of a portrait bust, to be presented to the Johns Hopkins University and ultimately to be placed, if it is deemed wise, at the medical school. The university already possesses a portrait in oil of Dr. Welch, executed by a great artist. The committee, Mr. President, entrusted with the responsibility, believes that in Mr. Konenkov's bust of Dr. Welch a masterpiece of sculpture has been produced. It is the hope of the committee that, in the discretion of the president and board of trustees of the university, this bust may be so exhibited that succeeding generations without end of teachers and students may come to view it. In contemplating its fine features, its strength and its wisdom, they will be reminded of the great teacher and citizen whose long and noble life's work is being devoted unselfishly, generously and kindly, successfully and modestly, to the advancement of knowledge and to the upbuilding of a school of medicine and allied sciences which has become a model for the world; perchance they will be reminded also that in making others strong resides the greatest strength and the most enduring happiness.

SIMON FLEXNER

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SITE FOR NEW SOLAR OBSERVATION STATION OF THE SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

ACCORDING to a statement received from the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. C. G. Abbot, assistant secretary of the institution and director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, has found, near Quetta, in British Baluchistan, the most suitable site that he has seen thus far in his search of the Eastern Hemisphere for a place to locate a new solar observation station. This new station, to be erected by the Smithsonian Institution with funds provided by the National Geographic Society, will be the third under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution which makes daily observations of the variable radiation of the sun, the other two being located in Chile and California.

This third station will furnish a needed check on the values from the other two, providing a more dependable daily value of the solar constant. It is hoped that accurate long-range weather forecasting may become possible as a result of this work by the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Abbot has visited the Sahara Desert and India and now is on his way to Southwestern Africa. In a

letter from Quetta, received by Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Abbot says:

From Delhi we made a two days' journey through a sandy desert and up into the barren mountains of Baluchistan to Quetta. We had expected to find Arctic weather in view of the accounts of many informants, but Washington winters are far more severe. Unfortunately we arrived on the eve of the first considerable rain they have had since September, and in the five days since we came it has rained or snowed four. The snow was only a half inch or so and is now gone at Quetta but the mountains about are all snow-covered now.

For the observatory site we have fixed upon Khojak Pass over which Lord Roberts' army dragged their guns in the Afghan war. The railroad now tunnels the pass, and a garrison of 2,000 troops holds Chaman about 10 miles beyond. There are detachments at both ends of the 2-mile tunnel. The peak is 7,525 feet high and overlooks Afghanistan deserts for a hundred miles, as well as the great valley to the east.

The location selected is wonderfully accessible. The military road runs over the pass, and a graded path nearly wide enough for autos runs $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to within a few feet of the peak. It will be possible to widen it at small expense and thus the observers can live at the eastern end of the tunnel in some comfort and ride up to observe in about 20 minutes each morning. In a half hour the boys can ride to Chaman and in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to Quetta. A three-days' railroad journey will bring them to the most interesting sights of India.

Quetta has no grass, but many fruit trees. The climate is as fine as anywhere in the world excepting only this week. Neither too hot nor too cold.

THE TULSA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY ..

THE seventy-first meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Tulsa, Okla., from April 5 to 8. The preliminary program follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 5

- 10:00 A. M. Registration bureau opens on sixteenth floor, Mayo Hotel.
- 10:00 A. M. Meeting of senate of chemical education, sixteenth floor, Mayo Hotel.
- 2:00 P. M. Council meeting—Mayo Hotel.
- 8:00 P. M. Smoker and entertainment—Mayo Hotel.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

- 10:00 A. M. General business meeting—Mayo Hotel.
- 11:00 A. M. General meeting—crystal ball room, Mayo Hotel.

Addresses by:

D. W. Moffit, vice-president, Mid-continent Petroleum Co., "Research Opportunity."

Cyrus S. Arney, highway commissioner, "What Oklahoma has to Offer."