of personal contact and participation in the experiments. The head of the clinic is seldom allowed enough time for that study and work which alone will keep him the best informed man in his own particular field. The university scatters his energies over a broad expanse, part of which is as sterile as the Desert of Sahara. If we accept the recent definition of the specialist as the man who knows more and more about less and less we can define the chief of the large clinic as the man who is in danger of knowing less and less about more and more. Do we want our leaders in medicine to be transformed into deans or even college presidents?

The matter will become still more serious when the younger men begin to realize all this. It is quite conceivable that some of the most promising, those who are most devoted to research, may forsake the paths of academic medicine. They may sincerely believe that they can learn more medicine, support their families in more comfort and accomplish more in research if they devote half the day to private practice and the other half to the laboratory.

What remedies are possible? One makeshift remedy would be to have the men in charge of clinics go to other institutions for a certain portion of each year in order to segregate themselves from domestic cares. This would be a frank acknowledgment of the ineffectiveness of the home conditions. The only logical method would seem to be a diminution of the executive work thrown on one man's shoulders. The problem of simplification must be handled by the men in charge of our medical schools. They must realize that the head of a department can not always protect himself but that they must protect him just as he protects his younger associates. The prime case of the trouble is the desire for bigness on the part of our universities. Our great American sins are efficiency and bigness. About the time we achieve one hundred per cent. efficiency we succeed in eliminating everything except the empty shell of efficiency itself, and about the time we achieve the desired bigness we eliminate the last trace of greatness.

This still leaves us with the problem of what to do with Harvey and Laënnec. I am afraid that these worthies would settle the question themselves. After a good look at the present conditions they would realize that they would be happier in their own small inefficient but comfortable centuries. Harvey would beg to be returned to the England of James the First, Laënnec to the France of Louis the Eighteenth.

EUGENE F. DUBOIS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE

CHARLES WESLEY HARGITT

CHARLES WESLEY HARGITT was born at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, on March 28, 1862, and died at Syracuse on June 11, 1927. He graduated from Moores Hill in 1877, took his Ph.D. at Ohio University, 1890, and was awarded an honorary degree doctorate of science by Moores Hill in 1908, by Evansville College in 1920 and by Syracuse University in 1922. Dr. Hargitt was professor of natural sciences at Moores Hill College from 1885 to 1888; professor of biology and geology at Miami University from 1888 to 1901; professor of biology from 1891 to 1921 in Syracuse University; professor of embryology in the college of medicine from 1898 to 1912, and research professor of zoology from 1921. Dr. Hargitt was assistant director of the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory from 1891 to 1903 and a trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole from 1900 to 1921. When Professor Hargitt came to Syracuse, he immediately set about introducing the laboratory method into the introductory biology, and this course soon became one of the strong courses in the university. During these early years he taught geology and botany, as well as courses in geology, and later that in botany was placed in separate departments. Although he looked after these related subjects at first, he gave without assistance courses in general biology, invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, histology and embryology. Seminar work was also included.

Professor Hargitt took an active part in educational organization, and early in his residence at Syracuse began urging a more liberal curriculum and in 1895 was instrumental in introducing the major and minor system, thus replacing the required courses of the last two years. He continued to be one of the leaders in faculty meetings up to the time of his retirement from active teaching.

But this diversified teaching and active part in educational reform did not hinder him from carrying on his research. Professor E. B. Wilson started him out as a graduate student on coelenterate development in 1884, and he continued to do research in this group for forty-three years. His contributions are too numerous to list, as they constitute a large part of the seven volumes of proceedings from the Department of Zoology.

Professor Hargitt studied at the Naples Biological Station in 1894, 1903 and 1910. He was vice-president in 1902 of section F of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; president of the New York State Science Teachers Association, 1898, and of Syracuse Academy of Science, 1896; member of the American Society of Zoologists; the American

Society of Naturalists; the Washington Academy of Sciences, and of other similar organizations.

Professor Hargitt was both a teacher and a friend to his many students. He was never content to admit that there was any difficulty in harmonizing the work of science and religion, and was ever ready to discuss these problems with students. We think of him as one of the pioneers in the teaching of the sciences at Syracuse. He has left a noble record of achievement and was fortunately able to carry on his research up to the end.

W. M. SMALLWOOD

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICO-CHEMICAL BIOLOGY IN PARIS

BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD, who is a member of the Institute of France, in the section of *"membres libres,"* has made a gift of 30,000,000 francs ($1,200,000) to found and support an institute of physico-chemical biology, the need of which he suggested a number of years ago. The Paris correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes:

> The proposed institute was already represented by a committee on organization. M. Girard, laboratory director at the École des hautes-études, will be the administrator of the new institute, which will be under the supervision of a board composed of the organizing committee, together with a number of distinguished scientists. The institute will be erected in the school quarter, in the vicinity of the Institute Curie. An institute of mathematical physics is likewise planned, funds for which will be contributed by the same donor. The text of the document by which M. Edmond de Rothschild conveys his gift is peculiar. Its tenor is inspired by the author's personal views in regard to biology and is intended to assure the continuance of the work of Claude Bernard, who was a friend of de Rothschild. It takes account, also, of Bernard's doctrine of physico-chemical determinism in relation to the phenomena of life. De Rothschild outlines thus, in a general way, the paths to be followed by the scientists of the future institute, and excludes, in advance, microbiology from their field of research. While the good intentions of the donor have been universally applauded, the restrictions that are thus placed on scientific research have been questioned in some quarters. The object seems to have been to found, over against the Pasteur Institute (the center of microbiology), a research center for the study of biologic phenomena, together with their practical applications, solely from the physical and chemical point of view. The gift is the largest that has ever been made in France by a single individual for the creation of an institute of pure science.

THE BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

DECISION to remove the research laboratories of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute from their present location in Philadelphia to the campus of Swarthmore College has been made.

It was only recently announced that Dr. W. F. G. Swann, who for the last two years has been the head of the department of physics at Yale University and director of the Sloane Laboratory there, would in September become director of the Franklin Institute Laboratories.

The Franklin Institute has leased a corner of the Swarthmore campus for its new building, but there has been no merger of the institute with the college.

Dr. Howard McClenahan, secretary of the institute, states that it is expected that the laboratories will profit by association with a college community, that they will have the conveniences of the college library and that they may be able to find students who can, at times, carry on researches of an elementary character by doing part-time work.

On the other hand, the authorities of Swarthmore College expect that the proximity of the laboratories and the associations of the research men in the laboratories will prove stimulating to the scientific departments of the college and will arouse interest among the students in research in physical science.

Mechanical and electrical disturbances due to city traffic have made it difficult to work in Philadelphia with the sensitive apparatus used in the laboratories and have resulted in the decision to move.

Nine men are now carrying on research work under fellowships of the Bartol Foundation, which maintains the laboratories, but the new building will accommodate about fifteen workers, in addition to the director and his assistants. It is expected that at least ten fellows will devote their full time to research work in different directions.

Dr. McClenahan pointed out that the plans for the laboratories were distinct from plans for a scientific, technical and industrial museum, which the Franklin Institute expects to build on the Parkway in Philadelphia.

PUBLIC BEQUESTS OF THE LATE PAYNE WHITNEY

THE residuary estate of the late Payne Whitney, who died on May 25, is by his will divided into 300 parts, of which about one third are bequeathed for public purposes. It is estimated that the value of these bequests is in excess of $20,000,000, and may be $50,000,000. The relevant provisions of the will are as follows:

> (a) I give and bequeath unto The Society of the New York Hospital, twenty-two of said shares. I give and bequeath unto Cornell University, for the maintenance and support of Cornell University Medical College, five of said shares. I give and bequeath unto the New York