in the same year, the earlier period of psychology in America may be closed. The few survivors may look back upon it as the golden age of our science, but that is doubtless due only to the presbyopia that obscures the vision of objects near at hand. In the thirty-five years that have since passed the number of our workers in psychology has increased to an extent perhaps without parallel in any other country or in any other science. We welcome the opening at Wittenberg College of a new laboratory which, under the direction of Professor Reymert, will become a new center for psychological teaching and research.

J. MCKEEN CATTELL

WILLIAM BARNUM

THE Carnegie Institution has recently lost two of its most illustrious friends—Charles D. Walcott and William Barnum. By a strange coincidence both of these men came from Utica, New York, both were pillars in the formative period of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and they died within a few months of each other. Dr. Walcott was a trustee of the institution since its founding and Mr. Barnum its editor since 1903.

It was in June, 1904, the school holidays, that the writer was given a little note in pencil written by Dr. Walcott and addressed to Mr. Barnum. The gist of the note was "and here is the red-headed boy of whom I spoke this morning." That summer holiday job stretched itself through the years to the present time.

To have worked beside such a man as William Barnum in these past years was an education in itself; to have felt the inspiration that seemed to generate from a noble soul was a blessing indeed; but to have known what this man meant to hundreds of others, to all who came in intimate contact with him, was to know a man the like of which one sees none too often.

Withal, William Barnum was a practical man. Assistance he would render to any one—provided it was an intelligent request. He despised the bluff or insincere. As editor, he would take a fifty-page pamphlet and perhaps reduce it to ten pages. Fine phrases in science writings do not necessarily bring out new information, and Mr. Barnum was an expert in aiding the author to express his thoughts. So too would he turn tables in such a fashion that the author thought the editor knew more about the subject than he did. The late Dr. Alfred G. Mayor, a prolific writer and a most sincere scientific writer, too, relied wholly on Mr. Barnum's judgment in his institutional writings.

The three presidents of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, Dr. Robert S. Woodward and Dr. John C. Merriam, valued and depended upon the great abilities of Mr. Barnum. Dr. John C. Merriam has recently extolled his ability.

As editor of the publications of the institution for nearly a quarter of a century, William Barnum's monument is a library of over five hundred volumes on nearly every scientific subject, the author of each book a debtor to the editor.

The writer would pay a tribute to his friend if he knew how. Perhaps the memory of him in years to come will compensate for my lack of ability to do him justice.

IRVING M. GREY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ENLARGED PROGRAM OF FOREST RESEARCH

THE McSweeney-McNary bill, which became a law with the approval of the president on May 22, represents the most important piece of fundamental forestry legislation enacted since the Clarke-McNary law of 1924, according to a statement by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, who also said:

> Forest research has hitherto failed to keep pace with many other forestry activities, notwithstanding the fact that research is the foundation upon which forestry development should be built. A greatly enlarged research program is called for by this situation, and the comprehensive policy of forestry research provided in the new bill will enable the department to cooperate with other agencies in a definite and far-reaching program of investigations which will form the basis for a permanent system of forest production and utilization for the entire nation.

The new bill establishes and outlines a ten-year program for forest research. A little more than $1,000,000 is now being expended by the federal government each year for this purpose. Under the terms of the McSweeney-McNary bill this amount may be increased each year by about $250,000 until the maximum annual expenditure of $3,500,000 is reached. All classes of forest research are contemplated by the bill, including investigations in growing, managing and utilizing timber, forage and other forest products, watershed protection, fire prevention, insects and disease. The various lines of research contemplated will be conducted by several bureaus of the department, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Entomology, the Biological Survey, the Weather Bureau, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The McSweeney-McNary bill was backed by a widespread, aggressive public interest from all parts of the United States and representing widely diversified groups, including many Chambers of Commerce and

development associations, the lumber and wood-using industries, nature, outdoor and recreation groups and women's clubs.

THE LASKER FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

AT the meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago held January 12, a communication from Mr. and Mrs. Albert D. Lasker was presented, in which are set forth the particulars by which is created the Lasker Foundation for Medical Research. The fund thus contributed to the university adds another large endowment for research in medicine, an endowment which provides the means for investigation of notable significance.

Added to the resources of the Douglas Smith foundation, of the Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Logan fellowships, of the Seymour Coman fellowships (all of which funds are designed to encourage research in various branches of medical science and in the prevention, cause and cure of disease), the new foundation greatly increases facilities and opportunities for medical research.

The Lasker Foundation (established by Albert D. and Flora W. Lasker) consists of $1,000,000, "the net income of which shall be used for the promotion of medical education and research at the University of Chicago." Already a liberal portion of the founding fund has been transferred to the university and the remainder will be paid with interest during the next three years. The offer to pay interest during the period of deferred payment enables the university to begin at once with the full amount of income from the fund the beneficent inquiries and to seek the hoped-for results which are contemplated by the creators of the foundation.

The donors' letter says in part:

> We express the desire that the income from this fund be used in the first place to support research into the causes, nature, prevention and cure of degenerative diseases. In the event, however, that in the opinion of the advisory board—which we shall subsequently mention—and the board of trustees of the university, the income of this fund can be used most effectively for medical education and research in other and further directions, the university shall be authorized to make such changes in the use and purposes of the income derived from said foundation. The general direction of the income shall be determined by an advisory committee, to be appointed by the trustees of the university. It is understood as part of this offer and agreement, and any agreement based thereon, that the publication of researches conducted wholly or partially through the support of this foundation shall, if possible, in the title recite the fact that said research has been supported by the Lasker foundation for medical research.

STANDARD MATHEMATICAL SYMBOLS

APPROVAL of mathematical symbols as American standards has completed the first step in a program of unification of the scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations used in engineering and industry, under the auspices of the American Engineering Standards Committee. The confusion resulting from variations in symbols used in different publications, reports and tables, led to the initiation of a project of unification by the standards committee early in 1923. The work has been progressing since that time, with 14 national organizations participating.

The approved mathematical symbols include those for arithmetic and algebra, elementary geometry, analytic geometry, trigonometric and hyperbolic functions, calculus, special functions and vector analysis. The effort was made to select from symbols already in use those which are most clearly understood and least likely to lead to confusion with other symbols.

Professor E. V. Huntington, of Harvard University, representing the American Mathematical Society, was chairman of the mathematical symbols subcommittee. This subcommittee is part of the sectional committee on scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations, of which Dr. J. Franklin Meyer, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, is chairman. The sectional committee includes other subcommittees on symbols for hydraulics, symbols for heat and thermodynamics, symbols for aeronautics, navigation and topographical symbols, electrotechnical symbols (including radio), symbols for photometry and illumination and symbols for mechanics, structural engineering and testing materials.

THE WEEK ON AGRICULTURE AT THE INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY

THE week of July 23, 1928, at the American Chemical Society Institute in Evanston will be devoted to a discussion of the ways chemistry can help agriculture by developing markets for its products other than for food and clothing. To date the twelve speakers listed below have accepted the invitation of the society to take part in the institute sessions during the week of July 23.

W. E. EMLEY: Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. He has charge of the work supported by the Department of Commerce on the industrial utilization of farm wastes. He has made a careful and extensive survey of this entire field as to the past and the future.

G. J. ESSELEN, JR.: Skinner, Sherman and Esselen, Boston, Mass. An expert on cellulose. He will discuss cellulose in modern industry and the influence of cellulose on civilization.

H. T. HERRICKS: Color and Farm Waste Division, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. He will dis-