

SCIENCE

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THEODORE WILLIAM RICHARDS

ON April 2, 1928, the scientific world was shocked by news of the death after a short illness of Theodore William Richards, Erving professor of chemistry in Harvard University. Until within three weeks of his death he performed his usual duties, but from that time he failed rapidly. His father, William Troost Richards, noted marine artist, as well as his mother, Anna Matlock Richards, were natives of Pennsylvania, and it was in Germantown, Pennsylvania, on January 30, 1868, immediately after the return of his parents from a European trip, that Theodore Richards, the fifth child, was born.

Childhood was passed under stimulating surroundings. His father was a very wise and far-seeing man as well as an artist; his Quaker mother an author of both prose and poetry; his three brothers and two sisters as well as he possessed a rich intellectual inheritance; artists, authors and scientists were intimate family friends at his father's Germantown and Newport homes; two years were spent in Europe, largely in England. By a wise decision on the part of his parents, Richards's early education up to the time of entering college was obtained at home from his mother. His quick intelligence was impatient of delay, and to conform to normal educational speed would unquestionably have been irksome if not disastrous. Although he was prepared to enter Haverford College at the age of thirteen and one half, because of his youth entrance to college was postponed for one year. But in the meantime he undertook the studies of the freshman year at home, still under the tutelage of his mother, and joined the sophomore class at Haverford in the fall of 1882.

Scientific interest showed itself early. As a boy he lived through two "boughten" sets of chemicals unharmed, and while still at home was taken into the chemical laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School by Dr. Marshall and given special instruction in qualitative analysis. In Haverford College, under Professor Lyman-B. Hall, he laid a firm foundation for his future work in chemistry, although his interest at that time was divided between chemistry and astronomy. Possibly only the accident of defective eyesight deterred him from selecting the latter field for his life work, but it is probable that acquaintance with Professor Josiah P. Cooke, of Harvard, who was a summer neighbor at Newport, exerted a strong influence on his decision. At any rate,

BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

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 Edited by Edwin L. Newcomb, Leasure K. Garbaker, Earl B. Fischer and Edmund N. Gathercoal. pp. xxxvii + 893. Illustrated. \$7.50.

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The University of Chicago Press, Chicago
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Cambridge University Press, Macmillan Company, New York
THE RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OF THE BLOOD. Part II
Haemoglobin. Joseph Barcroft. pp. viii + 200. \$5.00.

Owing to the rapid advance of knowledge, the author found it impossible to revise his original volume on *The Respiratory Function of the Blood* for a second edition. He therefore decided to break up the work into a series of manageable units. The first volume of this series, *Lessons from High Altitudes*, was published in 1925, the second is now presented.

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D. Appleton and Company, New York
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McGraw-Hill Book Company, Incorporated, New York
ECONOMICS OF CONSUMPTION. Warren C. Waite. pp. xii + 263. \$3.00.

In this book which has grown out of a course given for several years to students of home economics at the University of Minnesota, the economic order is viewed from the standpoint of the individual within the order, and the way in which economic forces and institutions limit and condition his consumption is shown.

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This book is dedicated to those who are considering engineering as a life work. It offers them an opportunity to know something about engineering as a profession and

about the college course which helps them to prepare for it.

Stanford University Press, Stanford University, California
CROSSROADS IN THE MIND OF MAN. Truman L. Kelley. pp. vii + 328. \$4.00.

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