function as a member of society. We shall also I think be made to feel that in the great plan of creation, the highest part has been assigned to man; for he must direct the development of that social organism which has been foreshadowed "with its million-minded knowledge and power, to which no barrier will be insurmountable, no gulf impassable and no task too great."

JOHN J. CARTY

EARLE MELVIN TERRY—1879–1929

EARLE MELVIN TERRY, professor of physics and a member of the department of physics at the University of Wisconsin since 1902, died of acute heart failure at his home on the night of May 1.

He was born on a farm near Battle Creek, Michigan, on January 16, 1879. Entering the University of Michigan in 1898, he largely worked his way through, specializing in physics, although he kept up throughout his work in the classics. This gave him a broad and balanced education, all too unusual in the specialist, and it may be of interest to recall that a quarter of a century later he was still able to tutor his son in Latin. After getting his A.B. degree in 1902 he came to Wisconsin as an assistant in physics and two years later was made an instructor, getting his doctorate in 1910 and advancing eventually to a professorship.

Terry was a rather unusual combination of a keen research worker and first-class teacher. His investigations were all characterized by a highly developed and skilful technique, whether along the magnetic lines which first engaged his attention, or vacuum tube design, quartz crystal frequency control and other radio problems which occupied him latterly. He also published theoretical investigations on oscillating circuits and was one of the collaborators on the National Research Council bulletin on "Magnetism." On the day of his death he had just finished the last page of the revision of his well-known laboratory manual of electrical measurements.

He was a pioneer in the radio field. Somewhat before 1910 came the first practical development of wireless telegraphy in this country, and Terry at once turned his attention in this direction. With the advent of radio telephony, interest was centered on this much more practical and interesting application of wireless waves. He wanted to have a local broadcasting station, but the patent situation regarding the tubes was such that they could not be obtained on the market. Nothing daunted, he at once set about making the tubes himself. He developed in a remarkably short time the difficult glassblowing technique and when station WHA was opened, as the first university station and, so far as is known, the second broadcasting station in the country, it was operated entirely with these tubes. Many students in the laboratory will recall having seen a set of these old tubes with in-seals colored red. Some one asked Terry about them once, and he explained:

"You see I started making those particular tubes on Christmas day and I used red sealing-in glass by way of celebrating a little."

When this country entered the war in 1917, Terry was one of the small group of Wisconsin physicists chosen to carry on submarine detector research at New London, Connecticut. One of the most successful types of detector was developed largely by this group, and at the close of the war it was installed on a number of destroyers and had already been primarily responsible for the destruction of several of the under-sea craft.

It is perhaps as a teacher, however, that Terry will be longest remembered. His personality, which won students from the start, and the interest in physics which he aroused in them, combined to make the experience in his classes one not to be forgotten. He especially liked to teach engineering students, and his relationships with this group were always particularly happy. His method of conducting classes was direct and simple. He scorned all special devices for getting the student to work, or "nursing" him along. The student either worked hard—or took his medicine. Students came to talk over their problems with him to such an extent that he was forced at times to shut himself in to be able to accomplish his own investigations.

The University of Wisconsin has recently suffered an unparalleled series of losses by death of men who can not be replaced, and Terry is one of the foremost of these. His influence as an outstanding teacher, tireless investigator and loyal friend will long be felt by all who have come in contact with him.

L. R. INGERSOLL

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PUBLIC HEALTH UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Two bills relating to the public health service have been introduced by Representative Parker (Rep.), of Salem, N. Y., chairman of the House Committee on Interstate Commerce. Both bills have been referred to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

They are as follows: H. R. 3143 proposes to establish and operate a National Institute of Health, to create a system of fellowships in the institute and to authorize the government to accept donations for use