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

in ascertaining the cause, prevention and cure of disease affecting human beings. The institute would be under the jurisdiction and administrative control of the Public Health Service. The bill says the Hygienic Laboratory shall hereafter be known as the National Institute of Health, occupying the same site in the District of Columbia. It would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to Congress from time to time plans and estimates of appropriations to carry out this proposed act.

H. R. 3142 proposes to coordinate health activities of the government. It provides that upon the request of an executive department or of an independent establishment which is carrying on a public health activity, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to detail officers or employees of the Public Health Service to such department or establishment in order to cooperate in such work.

It would authorize the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service to detail personnel of the Public Health Service to educational and research institutions for special studies of scientific problems relating to public health and for dissemination of information relating to public health and to extend the facilities of the Public Health Service to health officials and scientists engaged in special study.

It also would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to establish additional divisions in the Hygienic Laboratory in the District of Columbia as agencies for solution of public health problems. It specifies that the administrative office and bureau divisions of the Public Health Service in the District of Columbia shall be administered as a part of the departmental organization and the scientific offices and research laboratories of the Public Health Service shall (whether or not in the District of Columbia) be administered as a part of the field service.

Besides providing for appointments and promotions and other details, the bill provides among other things that the officer detailed as chief of the narcotics division of the Public Health Service shall, while so serving, be an assistant surgeon-general. It provides that hereafter the advisory board for the hygienic laboratory shall be known as the National Advisory Health Council.

THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE Tennessee Academy of Science held its spring meeting at Memphis and Reelfoot Lake on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27. Sessions were held on Friday morning and afternoon and on Saturday morning in the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, and on Saturday evening in the Walnut Log Lodge, Reelfoot Lake. The president of the academy, P. E. Cox, Tennessee state archeologist, presided at the meeting.

The program of thirty papers and addresses embraced not only subjects in various branches of science, including physics, chemistry, biology, archeology, psychology, sociology, bacteriology and pharmacology, but several of more general interest such as "Some Phases of Flood Control on the Mississippi River," with special reference to the work now in progress in the Memphis district, by Lieutenant-Colonel F. B. Wilby; "Progress of Mosquito Control and Malaria Control," by J. A. LaPrince, of the U. S. Public Health Service; "County-wide Screening Program for the Control of Malaria in Lake County, Tennessee," by Howard R. Fullerton, of the Tennessee Public Health Department; "The Geology of Reelfoot Lake," by Walter F. Pond, state geologist of Tennessee, and "The Story of Reelfoot Lake," by the Honorable Thomas O. Morris, of Obion, Tennessee.

The session on Friday morning opened with an address of welcome by the Honorable S. Watkins Overton, mayor of Memphis. At the dinner on Friday evening in the Hotel Peabody ballroom, the speakers were the Right Reverend Thomas F. Gailor, bishop of Tennessee Episcopal Church, and Dr. M. W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology. The Memphis members of the academy provided automobiles for the excursion to Reelfoot Lake on Saturday afternoon and return to Memphis on Sunday afternoon.

The officers of the academy are:

P. E. Cox, *president,* Memorial Building, Nashville.

A. Richard Bliss, Jr., *vice-president,* 175 Granville Place, Memphis.

J. T. McGill, *secretary-treasurer,* Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Jesse M. Shaver, *editor,* George Peabody College, Nashville.

The next meeting of the academy will be held at Nashville, November 29, 1929.

JOHN T. MCGILL,
Secretary

THE SEVENTH COLLOID SYMPOSIUM

THE Seventh Colloid Symposium will be held at the Johns Hopkins University on June 20, 21 and 22. The following program of papers has been announced by the chairman of the symposium, Professor Harry B. Weiser, The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

Frederick G. Donnan, University College, London, "The Scattering of Light in Sols and Gels."

S. E. Sheppard and J. G. McNally, Eastman Kodak Company, "The Anisotropy of Gelatin Gels."

Harvey A. Neville and E. R. Theis, Lehigh University, "The Measurement of the Hydration of Gelatin and Related Materials and the Relation of Hydration to Swelling."