the professorships in medical schools, the directorships and other posts in research institutes, the editorships of medical journals held by those who as undergraduates were elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. New methods and instruments and diseases will be named for you. The author's index in medical literature will be, in large degree, an A. O. A. directory. The text-books will bear your names. The handbooks of research will contain your biographies. You will even be mentioned in "Who's Who," which is almost as bad as having a pyramid named after you.

Medical practice needs good men. Medical practice is an honorable and useful calling. But I believe that teaching and research need men of A. O. A. caliber even more than the practice of medicine needs them. I direct your eyes to the immensity of the unknown. I parody Browning:

Contrast
The petty Known, the Unknown vast.

Bring your great talents, Alpha Omega Alpha, like Columbus to the shore of the unknown. Chart new pathways, sound new depths, dare new winds and currents, visit strange lands, bring back new fruits—then shall ye be great. Then shall ye be dukes and kings in the aristocracy of intellect. Then shall ye deserve your heritage—and your key.

# OBITUARY

## RICHARD MILLS PEARCE, JUNIOR

DR. RICHARD MILLS PEARCE, JR., died on February 16, 1930, of heart disease. Born in Montreal on March 3, 1874, he received his early education at the Boston Latin School. Taking up the study of medicine, he entered the Harvard Medical School, from which he received his medical degree in 1897. After graduation there he came under the influence of Professor W. T. Councilman, and entered the department of pathology, where for a year he filled the position of instructor.

In 1900 Dr. Pearce was called to the University of Pennsylvania, becoming first demonstrator in pathology and, later, assistant professor of pathology. In 1903 he assumed the directorship of the Bender Hygienic Laboratory, in affiliation with the Albany (N. Y.) Medical College, in which latter institution he held the professorship of pathology and bacteriology. Five years later he became professor of pathology in the New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City. In 1910 he returned to the University of Pennsylvania, to fill the newly founded chair of research medicine, and thus became the first research professor in medicine in the United States. During the World War, Dr. Pearce gave valuable services with the American Red Cross in Washington as secretary of the Medical Advisory Committee and director of the Bureau of Foreign Medical Service, and later with the National Research Council as chairman of the division of medicine and related sciences. At the conclusion of the war he resumed his temporarily interrupted research work at the University of Pennsylvania. During three years of personal association with Dr. Pearce at the University of Pennsylvania, the present writer was able to appreciate his competence, talent and devotion both as teacher and as investigator.

In the course of his teaching and research, Dr. Pearce's own contributions to scientific knowledge in pathology were significant. He made real additions to the knowledge of cytotoxins at a period when that subject was in the formative stages of its growth, and, correcting current errors, diverted experiment into more accurate channels, through which distinct progress came to be made. With the aid of his pupils he carried through one of the comprehensive and substantial investigations of the pathology of the spleen, and embodied the results in a volume of permanent interest. In addition to these, which may be regarded as his major undertakings, he successfully investigated, either alone or with or through pupils, numerous other problems in pathology.

In 1920, Dr. Pearce entered upon activities through which he was soon to be known and respected in wider fields; he became associated with the Rockefeller Foundation, carrying out at first medical surveys in South American and other countries; in 1923, he became regularly attached to this foundation as director of the Division of Medical Education, which position he held up to the time of his death. The field was not new to Dr. Pearce; he had in 1912 delivered the Hitchcock Lectures at the University of California on the subject of "Research in Medicine,"[1] in which he had forcibly and lucidly discussed the historical and present-day problems of medical education and research. His association with the Rockefeller Foundation led Dr. Pearce to investigate personally the state of medical education in many parts of the world, and to devise means through which medical teaching and research might be advanced by judicious financial assistance. He made many visits to foreign countries, including a long stay in China, in order to assist in the organization of the Peiping Union Medical College, in addition to numerous visits

[1] Printed in "Medical Research and Education" by Richard M. Pearce and others. The Science Press, New York, 1913.

to medical institutions in the United States and in Canada. In the course of these studies, Dr. Pearce's constructive mind found out ways of modifying and improving existing conditions, and the warmth with which his suggestions were welcomed by the institutions under examination was shown by the frequency with which they were put into practice. It is not too much to say that Dr. Pearce's insight, high purpose, and tactful approach made his visits to educational institutions in many countries important events in their history. His services to them, conceived broadly as educational, were something apart from any material aid which he might bring them, although it sometimes happened, of course, that the developments which he foresaw could only be brought to fruition through financial aid.

There can hardly be a doubt that an essential part of Dr. Pearce's success in perceiving ways of extending and improving facilities for medical education and research arose from his own dominant interest in medical research and his personal contributions to medical knowledge. During the whole of Dr. Pearce's laboratory career, which extended from 1900 to 1923, or more than twenty years, he was engaged himself, or with pupils, in teaching and in conducting medical research. This experience was of inestimable value to Dr. Pearce in his subsequent highly onerous and influential position as an officer of the Rockefeller Foundation, and to it may be traced those courageous, comprehensive projects in the enlarging of facilities for instruction and research in many places in the United States and Europe.

Dr. Pearce possessed a winning personality which brought him many friends and admirers. The nature of his educational activities in the later years gave an almost world-wide scope for the operation of his personal gifts. His heart was deeply immersed in these activities, and he felt the burden of the critical position which he came to occupy because of the declared purpose of the Rockefeller Foundation to contribute toward the improvement of medical teaching and research on a world-wide scale, an undertaking vast and intricate in nature. But it is doubtful whether in his heart of hearts the laboratory ever ceased to beckon to and allure him. This secret, if secret it be, was known to at least a few of his intimate professional friends. Possessed as Dr. Pearce was of clear perception and rare courage, he must have repeatedly put these longings behind him because of a conviction that perhaps after all he might serve an even wider purpose and accomplish greater good by making possible higher levels of education, and by providing better means of research to countless students in time to come in the many institutions to which financial aid could be brought through his efforts.

The death of Dr. Pearce means the loss of one who had been a notable teacher, investigator and finally supporter of medical education and research; but it is certain that the benefits of his effective labors will continue to be widely felt for very many years.

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FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,
NEW YORK

# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## AN AFRICAN MAMMAL HALL FOR THE MUSEUM OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MR. LESLIE SIMSON, retired mining engineer and capitalist, of Berkeley, California, has sailed from New York for Mombasa, British East Africa, for the purpose of securing specimens of animals for habitat groups of African big-game animals for the California Academy of Sciences. Mr. Simson expects to collect the animals necessary for forty to fifty habitat groups, which will be installed in the Leslie Simson African Mammal Hall, which will constitute one of the most important units of the east wing of the academy's museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Construction work on the new wing will begin this summer, and it is expected that the building will be completed in 1931. The plans provide a hall or halls ample for housing and proper display of fifty or more habitat groups of large size similar to those in the present California Mammal Hall in the museum.

Mr. Simson lived in Africa for thirty-one years, associated with John Hays Hammond in mining operations. During his long residence there he did a great deal of hunting and became very familiar with the habits and the habitats of practically all the species of big-game animals of Africa.

Mr. Simson will at first make his headquarters at Nairobi, Kenya; later he will go to other big-game centers until he has secured a good representation of the species of big-game animals of Africa.

Upon his arrival at Nairobi he will begin his hunting at once, and he expects his first shipments of animals to reach San Francisco not later than next September. It is Mr. Simson's desire to provide the California Academy of Sciences with a series of habitat groups of African mammals second to none in America. His offer of materials and money to the academy should make this possible. He estimates that it will take about three years for him and his assistants to do the collecting.