

and it was he who became the first head master. In later years he taught in the Military Officers' School at Tokyo, and was for a time the superintendent of the Seijo Gakko, or Middle School. During all these years he devoted a great deal of time to the study of the mathematical classics, fitting himself to become a worthy successor to Mr. Endō, whose work on the history of Japanese mathematics is deserving of being ranked as itself a classic. He was also much interested in the subject of geometric transformations as treated by Ushijima Seiyo and Hodoji Zen and had planned to publish a work upon the subject, a project that he did not live to carry out.

For some years before his death he was engaged in preparing a catalogue of the large collection of early Japanese mathematical manuscripts and printed books in the Imperial Academy at Tokyo, a line of work for which he was admirably fitted.

In manner he was a "gentleman of the old school," kindly and yet reserved. He wrote but little, always hesitating to put on paper that which he felt to be in need of further perfecting. Perhaps it was as well that this was the case, since it left him more time for work upon the library, a task which was left unfinished but which was complete as far as he went.

I am indebted to friends in Japan for much of the above information concerning Mr. Okamoto's life, and to my own impressions of him formed on a visit to the library only a year ago. If Japan should induce Mr. Mikami to carry on the labors of his friend, this would be looked upon by western scholars as fortunate for the development of the history of the native mathematics of that country.

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#### MEMORIALS

DR. GEORGE H. BIGELOW, commissioner of health of Massachusetts, will deliver the sixth Hermann M. Biggs Memorial Lecture, May 7, at the New York Academy of Medicine. The subject of the lecture will be "Will Physicians Practice Preventive Medicine?" The lectureship, founded by the widow of Dr. Biggs, was until this year administered by the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association and the Medical Society of the County of New York. Previous lectures were given by Dr. William H. Park, 1925; Dr. S. Lyle Cummins, Cardiff, Wales, 1926; Dr. Allen K. Krause, 1927; Dr. Charles-Edward A. Winslow, 1928, and Dr. John H. Stokes, 1929.

THE issue of *Wiener medizinische Wochenschrift* for March 14 is dedicated to the memory of Professor von Basch, the father of clinical sphygmomanometry, who died in 1905.

It is planned under the auspices of the academy at Béarn to erect a monument at Pau to Charles Moureu, the organic chemist who died on June 13, 1929, in memory of his services to science. The monument will be executed by the sculptor E. Gabard. Busts will be placed in the Collège de France and the Faculté de Pharmacie in Paris.

#### RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR FRANCIS X. DERCUM, from 1892 to 1925 professor of nervous and mental diseases at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, since 1925 professor emeritus, died suddenly on April 23 while presiding at the business session of the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society, which he had served as president for seven years. Dr. Dercum was seventy-four years old.

THE death is announced of Dr. George Martin Kober, professor of hygiene and dean of the School of Medicine of Georgetown University until his retirement as dean emeritus in 1928, on April 24. Dr. Kober was eighty-one years of age.

DR. JOHN A. FOOTE, pediatrician and dean of the Georgetown University Medical School, with which he had been connected twenty-five years, died on April 11, at the age of fifty-seven years.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR J. WOOD, head of the department of mechanical engineering at Pennsylvania State College, died on April 18 from injuries he received when he was struck by a motorcycle. Professor Wood was past president of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, former associate editor of *The Railroad Gazette*, and until 1918 associate editor of *Railroad Mechanical Engineering*.

EDGAR BOYD KAY, formerly dean of the School of Engineering of the University of Alabama and chief of the hydraulic and sanitary division, quartermaster's office, United States Army, has died, at the age of seventy-one years.

THE death is reported by *The British Medical Journal* of Dr. Jean Baptiste Coppez, professor of ophthalmology at Brussels from 1891 to 1905, aged ninety years; Dr. Auguste Slosse, professor of physiological chemistry at Brussels; Dr. Paul Frangenheim, professor of surgery at Cologne and an authority on bone surgery, aged fifty-four years; Dr. Giulio Tuno, a physiologist of Rome, and Professor Vogt, a Moscow pathologist, aged eighty-three years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Hermann Matthes, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry in the University of Königsberg, and of Dr. Wilhelm Semmler, professor of chemistry at the University of Breslau.