

stuff that gives mankind its saints and its martyrs. But he was a saint without seriousness, and he could have gone to martyrdom, without a murmur of self-pity, as part of the day's work.

For his was a casual greatness!

He pursued the most painstaking research as if he were playing a game. He brought to his tasks that gaiety of spirit which authentic greatness can afford. His spirit never surrendered that incorrigible playfulness which so often marks men of power. He brought laughter into the laboratory, for there was about him that deceptively careless air which creative spirits have as they go about their business.

But there was toughness to the fiber of his mind!

He was a teacher who scorned the tyranny of the text-books, and he did not think it impertinent to doubt the authorities. Each morning he met the universe with a question. His was the creative heresy of an insatiable curiosity. The cleansing winds of the critical spirit swept freely and forever through his mind.

He belongs to the apostolic succession of the great pioneers of research—Pythagoras, Aristotle, Archimedes, Copernicus, Galileo, Harvey, Newton, Lavoisier, Dalton, Faraday, Helmholtz, Darwin, Pasteur, Gregor Mendel and Einstein, for, like them, he was an adventurer into the unknown to whom research was an intellectual passion rather than an institutional ritual, to whom creative thinking was more important than elaborate equipment, and for whom there was no barricaded frontier between pure and applied science.

In an age when scholars all too often hasten to publish even before they prove their findings, he was content to let his greatest work speak for itself, for perhaps the most illuminating fact of his career is that he never published so much as a word about his part in the discovery, definition and defeat of that "hidden hunger" from which man and beast might die while eating their fill.

In an age smitten with the passion for publicity, he forgot himself into immortality!

And in the midst of the sickness of an acquisitive society, his spirit remained unsullied even by legitimate personal considerations!

Scholar of a great university!

Servant of a great state!

Shy benefactor of mankind everywhere!

Laughing saint of science!

Being dead he yet speaks!

GLENN FRANK

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

RECENT DEATHS

DR. DANIEL A. K. STEELE, dean of the College of Medicine and head of the department of surgery of the University of Illinois, from 1882 to 1917, died on July 19, aged seventy-nine years.

FREDERIC DUNN BELL, until last year chairman of the board of directors of the Lederle Antitoxin Laboratories of New York, and secretary of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, died on July 17.

MAJOR T. F. CHIPP, assistant director of the Botanical Gardens, Kew, died on June 28.

TRUMAN P. GAYLORD, vice-president of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, formerly assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Armour Institute of Technology, died suddenly on July 5 at the age of sixty years.

HERBERT TOMLINSON, F.R.S., formerly principal of the South-Western Polytechnic at Chelsea, England, known for his work on the properties of matter, died on June 12 at the age of eighty-six years.

Nature reports the death on April 16 of Miss Anne L. Massy, known for her work on the pteropods and cephalopods.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY

ACCORDING to a report in the London *Times*, numerous fellows of the Royal Botanic Society attended a recent meeting at the Royal Botanical Gardens to hear a statement which foreshadowed the dissolution of the society at the end of the year in consequence of the decision of the Treasury not to renew the lease of the gardens. While the break-up of the society in its present form seemed to be regarded as inevitable, hopes were expressed that the gardens might yet be preserved, and Colonel T. C. Moore, M.P., who has been in recent touch with Mr. Lansbury on the ques-

tion, was co-opted a member of the council. The First Commissioner of Works, he said, had given him an undertaking that if any proposition could be made which would bring a more democratic influence to the gardens and yet make it possible to run them without loss it would be given favorable consideration.

Mr. C. C. Hoyer Millar, who presided, said that the lease of the gardens would expire on April 5 next year. He described the long struggle of the council to retain them, and expressed their deep regret that efforts to obtain a new lease had been of no