in that it gives additional points of contact with intelligent patients and may form the basis of brief conversation that adds to the pleasure of the doctor's visit. It may even lead to friendships that otherwise would not be formed.

The American is what Paul Leicester Ford calls Peter Sterling, a practical idealist. Better perhaps than any other national he can combine the ideals of the art of medicine with the ideals of the laboratory. Under that combined egis medicine will become a greater and a grander profession, more scientific in the sense of understanding better the physiologic basis of life and health and a nobler art in its profound insight into the human soul which can not be weighed in the balance or seen through the microscope.

OBITUARY

EDWARD SKINNER KING

ON September 10 Professor Edward Skinner King, astronomer for more than forty years at the Harvard College Observatory, died at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after a short illness. He was born at Liverpool, New York, on May 31, 1861, and obtained his education in the schools of that state, receiving his degree from Hamilton College: an A.B. degree in 1887, an A.M. in 1890 and an honorary Sc.D. in 1927. While at Hamilton he specialized in mathematics and the classics, taking several of the coveted prizes in mathematics, and was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

During his college days he came under the guidance of Professor C. F. W. Peters, upon whose suggestion he applied, immediately following his graduation, for a place on the staff of the Harvard College Observatory. Appointed an assistant in 1887, he was connected with the observatory thereafter almost continuously until his death. There was an interval of about three years in the early nineties when he was compelled to give up active duty because of ill health.

During all these years Professor King was in charge of astronomical photography at Cambridge, developing new methods of clock control, instrumental guiding and plate testing. He was a pioneer in the subject of photographic photometry, and made a special determination of color differences in stars, as observed photographically and visually. He was the first successfully to photograph the Aurora and the spectrum of lightning, and was likewise the first to observe star occultations by photographic means. The results of his scientific work are to be found in the various Harvard Observatory publications and include, among others, discussions on the absorption of photographic wedges, photographic photometry, lunar photometry, tests of photographic plates, transformation of prismatic to normal spectra, absorption medium in space, out of focus results on magnitudes of stars, eclipses of Jupiter's satellites, and photo-visual magnitudes of stars and planets.

For more than ten years Professor King contributed biweekly articles on astronomy to one of the prominent newspapers of the country, and in this connection devised and published his "Star Maps." He was coauthor of the "Harvard Radio Talks," better known as "The Universe of Stars." In 1930 he produced his "Manual of Celestial Photography," an authoritative and unique treatise on how to take celestial photographs.

Professor King became assistant professor of astronomy in 1913, and in 1926 was made Phillips professor, a chair which he held until September first of this year, when he became professor emeritus. He was a member of numerous scientific societies, among which were the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Astronomical Union, the Société Astronomique de France, the Bond Astronomical Club, the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, and the American Astronomical Society, of which, at the time of his death, he was a member of the council.

He was married in 1890 to Miss Kate Irene Colson, of Batchellerville, New York, to whom three children were born: Dr. Harold Skinner King, now associate professor of chemistry at Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S.; Margaret W., wife of Professor J. C. Manry, of the University of Iowa, and Everett T., who died in 1917.

LEON CAMPBELL

MEMORIALS

To celebrate the centenary of the British Medical Association the council has opened a fund for the purpose of establishing a permanent memorial to its founder, Sir Charles Hastings. The *British Medical Journal* reports that the memorial will take the form of a stained-glass window in the cathedral at Worcester, a city with which he was intimately associated all his life; the placing of a tablet on the house in Worcester in which he practised; and the restoration and permanent upkeep of his grave in the Astwood Cemetery, Worcester. Any balance left over after these objects have been fulfilled will be given to the Sir Charles Hastings Fund, which is controlled by a small body of trustees, who have power to distribute the income for the benefit of individual members of the profession or their dependents in any way that