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

the trustees may think fit. The fund has proved exceedingly useful in cases which do not come within the ordinary scope of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund and in cases in which there is urgent need for help.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. L. L. VAN SLYKE, chemist at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva and professor of dairy chemistry at Cornell University, died on October 1. He was seventy-two years old.

DR. WILLIS A. SLATER, director of the Fritz engineering laboratory at Lehigh University and formerly engineer physicist at the U. S. Bureau of Standards, died on October 6 at the age of fifty-three.

DR. GEORGE THOMSON ELLIOT, emeritus professor of dermatology at Cornell University Medical College, died on September 14. Dr. Elliot was seventy-six years of age.

MR. ALFRED J. HENRY, senior meteorologist in the U. S. Weather Bureau and editor of the *Monthly Weather Review,* died on October 5, aged seventy-three years.

DR. JAMES W. GIDLEY, assistant curator of fossil mammals at the U. S. National Museum, died on September 26. He was sixty-five years of age.

DR. J. MADISON TAYLOR, professor of physical therapeutics and dietetics at Temple University, died on October 3 at the age of seventy-seven years.

PROFESSOR JOSIAH W. VOTEY, dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Vermont, died on September 16, at the age of seventy-one years.

MR. ANDREW J. WILEY, well-known consulting engineer, died on October 7. He was sixty-nine years of age.

SIR WILLIAM JOHN RITCHIE SIMPSON, director of tropical hygiene at the Ross Institute, Putney, editor of the *Journal of Tropical Medicine,* and emeritus professor of hygiene and public health at King's College of the University of London, died on September 20, at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. PERCY GROOM, professor of the technology of woods and fibers at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, died suddenly on September 16. Dr. Groom was sixty-six years of age.

COLONEL THE HONORABLE MILO G. TALBOT, who was awarded a Royal Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1909 and who was known for his surveys of the northwest frontier of India and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, died on September 3 at the age of seventy-six years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE METALLURGICAL ADVISORY BOARD

THE fifth annual open meeting of the metallurgical advisory board to the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the U. S. Bureau of Mines will be held on Friday, October 16, on the campus of the institute, in Pittsburgh. The progress made on research problems undertaken jointly by the Carnegie Institute and the U. S. Bureau of Mines will be discussed during the morning and afternoon sessions by investigators from the two laboratories.

Mr. Charles F. Abbott, executive director of the American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., will be the principal speaker at the evening session, which will follow an informal dinner at the Hotel Schenley. Mr. Abbott's subject will be "Market Research in the Steel Industry." Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology and organizer of the advisory board, will preside at the evening session.

The morning meeting will be devoted to reports and discussions on iron-manganese-carbon alloys and chrome-nickel alloys. Reports on research work will be given by Dr. Francis M. Walters, Jr., director of the Bureau of Metallurgical Research of the Carnegie Institute; Dr. V. N. Krivobok, metallurgist of the same bureau, and Maxwell Gensamer and Cyril Wells, assistants. Dr. C. H. Herty, Jr., physical chemist, and M. B. Royer, assistant metallurgist, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, will deliver a report on the solubility of carbon in iron-manganese-silicon alloys. Dr. G. R. Fitterer, associate metallurgist of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, will report on the electrolytic method for the determination of inclusions in steel. Other reports will be delivered by the same investigators.

The physical chemistry of steel-making will be reported on and discussed at the afternoon session. The three outstanding contributions from this work are the development of a new manganese-silicon deoxidizer, which has been shown to be much superior to ferro-manganese ferro-silicon in combination in producing clean steel at a low cost; the development of a method for quantitatively determining non-metallic inclusions in plain-carbon steels; and the determination of the factors which affect the oxidation of steel in the open-hearth furnace. These reports will be made by Dr. Herty and members of the staff of the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The several reports will be interspersed with discussions by metallurgists from the industry.