

OBITUARY

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT KOCH

PRESIDENT HOOVER called on the nation on March 21 to join in honoring the memory of Dr. Robert Koch on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his discovery of the bacillus of tuberculosis. The proclamation read:

Fifty years ago, on March 24, 1882, Robert Koch, a German doctor, startled the medical circles of Europe by announcing he had discovered the germ that causes tuberculosis.

The steps he took to prove his opinion, and the clarity with which he explained those steps, made his report not only a classic in medical literature but established a technique in medical research that ever since has been a boon to civilization in its fight against disease.

Next Thursday the fiftieth anniversary of Robert Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus will be commemorated throughout the world. Unstinted honor will be paid to the memory of the famous man who, almost single handed, directed the feet of nations toward the path of victory in the relentless, though silent, war against the destructive forces of nature.

In the United States the benefits of Koch's discovery loom large in light of the fact that the death rate from tuberculosis is now but one fourth what it was in 1882, and the search for a specific cure, as yet undiscovered, goes steadily forward along the lines he mapped out.

Because of his priceless contributions to human welfare it is fitting that we, as a nation, do him honor, and that each community acknowledge its debt to Robert Koch by commemorating in an appropriate manner the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his discovery of the tubercle bacillus.

A MONUMENT FOR LUDWIG BOLTZMANN

SOME time ago I received a letter from the physicists of Vienna, an abstract of which I am translating herewith:

The Mayor of Vienna has agreed to dedicate a grave of honor to Boltzmann and has agreed to bear the cost of caring for it. Indeed the remains of Boltzmann have already been buried in this tomb, which is situated in the most beautiful and most prominent place in the new part of the municipal central cemetery. While the city bears all the costs—as an exception, even the costs of transfer—it is thought that a monument commensurate with the importance of Boltzmann should be erected.

You will understand without our going into details, that with the present situation in Austria only a small part of the sum necessary for the monument can be collected there. The costs of a monument amount, even with great economy, to about 8,000 to 10,000 Austrian shillings (\$1,150 to \$1,430). We know that the memory of Boltzmann is still alive in America, as he had been active at the University of California and as some of the influential physicists in American universities and

perhaps also in American industry, are students of Boltzmann, directly or indirectly.

Our request is now, whether you would use your influence with the scientists mentioned above and possibly with others, who appreciate Boltzmann's work, to help in the realization of our plan.

Are there in America large associations (The American Physical Society or The American Mathematical Society, for example) who would be inclined to make the erection of the monument possible through larger contributions?

May we ask you, if this action is successful, to act as receiver of gifts and keep them until the present exchange difficulties in Austria are over—or the bills for the monument come due? If you wish, this letter may be made public.

This letter is signed for the Chemical-Physical Society by Professor Arthur Haas, and for the heads of the Physical Institute of the Universität of Vienna, and of the Radium Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna by Professor Gustav Jäger, Stefan Meyer, Felix Ehrenhaft, Egon Schweidler and Hans Thirring.

The treasurer of the Johns Hopkins University has kindly consented to accept contributions for the erection of the Boltzmann Monument: Checks may be made payable either to him or to me. Of course, I expect under present conditions only small contributions from individuals, and might perhaps suggest \$2.00 or \$3.00 as a reasonable amount.

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. CLIFFORD RICHARDSON, consulting chemical engineer, from 1900 to 1910 proprietor of the New York Testing Laboratory and earlier superintendent of testing for the Barber Asphalt Paving Company, died in Paris on February 28, at the age of seventy-five years.

CHARLES LIVINGSTON BULL, formerly taxidermist at the U. S. National Museum, author and naturalist, died on March 22. He was fifty-seven years old.

PROFESSOR D. H. MARSHAL, emeritus professor of mathematics and physics, Queen's University, died at Kingston, Ontario, on March 14, at the age of eighty-four years. Professor Marshal was formerly professor of mathematics and physics at the Imperial College of Engineering in Tokyo.

DR. ALEXANDER DOUGALL BLACKADER, emeritus professor of pharmacology, therapeutics and pediatrics, McGill University, died on March 14. He was eighty-six years old.