Museum they enjoy an association of interest that can not help but be of the greatest importance in biological research. For these great advantages the departments thus newly housed are deeply indebted to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation and to the Harvard Corporation.

OBITUARY

IRWIN GILLESPIE PRIEST

IRWIN G. PRIEST, chief of the colorimetry section of the National Bureau of Standards, and internationally known as an authority on colorimetry and spectro-photometry, was taken suddenly ill on July 19, while working in his laboratory at the bureau and lived only a few hours afterwards.

Born on a farm near Loudonville, Ohio, on January 26, 1886, he had the misfortune while still a lad to lose his father. Contrary to the advice of relatives and friends, his mother courageously decided to invest her limited funds in her son's education—a sacrifice richly rewarded by his success and by a lifelong filial devotion—and young Priest entered the Ohio State University. Immediately after graduating in 1907 he came to the Bureau of Standards as Dr. Stratton's personal assistant. Thus began his work in optics, to which he applied himself henceforth with zealous enthusiasm. In scanning his fruitful research of a quarter century, one finds no evidence that he ever departed from this field.

In 1913 Mr. Priest was made chief of the colorimetry section, and from that time on he gave his attention largely to fundamental colorimetric problems. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of the spectro-photometer in colorimetric analysis and other lines of research and testing, and he contributed many ideas to the development of various types of spectrophotometric equipment. Much of the theory of interpreting spectrophotometric data in terms of dominant wave-length, purity and brightness is due to Mr. Priest, and his apparatus for the determination of color directly in these terms provided the first adequate means for testing the validity of such interpretation. This instrument, together with other apparatus which he designed, also yielded the first fundamental information regarding the sensibility of the human eye to wave-length change and purity change for nearly white colors.

He regarded the rotary-dispersion colorimetric photometer as his most important personal contribution to apparatus for color measurements. This instrument is admirably adapted not only to the determination of the color temperature and intensity of various incandescent illuminants, but is suitable also for the evaluation of these qualities for the various phases of daylight, such as sunlight, overcast sky and blue sky. His work on the standardization of Lovibond glasses has been of great practical value to the edible oil and mineral oil industries.

Mr. Priest married Miss Edna Ryan, of Washington, D. C., in 1917 and the location of their home, on the border of a wooded valley in sight of his laboratory, symbolized his devotion to his work. To this he gave himself unsparingly. He abhorred slovenliness in scientific work, and the results of his own investigation were published only after numerous repetitions of his measurements, accompanied by the most exacting attention to details.

He was fond of swimming, canoeing, walking and the woods. In his earlier years he gave generously of his time to a large and enthusiastic Boy Scout troop. His instinctive kindliness and keen sense of humor, characterized by a smile which illumined his whole face, endeared him alike to young and old.

Mr. Priest was a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Optical Society of America, the American Psychological Association, the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Society of Washington. As secretary (1921–24) and president (1928–29) of the Optical Society of America he was instrumental in bringing this organization to new heights of usefulness and influence. He was a special representative of the Department of Commerce at the International Congress on Illumination held in England last year.

Though his life was short, it was extraordinarily fruitful. His name has been written indelibly upon the pages of the science he loved, and his memory is revered in the hearts of hosts of friends.

LYMAN J. BRIGGS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH UNION OF CHEMICAL SOCIETIES

IN his presidential address to the fifty-first annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, which was opened at University College, Nottingham, England, on July 13, Dr. G. T. Morgan took as his subject, "Ourselves and Kindred Societies," giving a review of the work of the union. Dr. Morgan said in part: