

And humility, because the greater the man the more he realizes how limited is the sphere in which he can work in the vastness of infinity. And he knows that, great as his genius may be, it would be nothing but for the work of those who have gone before him. The greatest man in science to-day is dependent upon the work of his predecessors. The search for truth is eternal and will last as long as the world. It was Sir Isaac Newton who declared: "If I have seen farther, it has been by standing on the shoulders of giants."

And there is one other thing about science and scientists. They are men who serve their generation in as great a measure as any, but you never heard of the

scientific genius who became a millionaire by gain. That is one of their glories.

It is not the calling of every man to pursue science or research. But may it be your fortune to find here the man who is born for research, that something may be accomplished in this building, or may be discovered, which will run round the world and make his name famous. He will not then want material rewards. They can come to the exploiters. But long after we have mouldered into dust the name of such a man, as of those attached to these pictures, will be handed down from generation to generation as among the benefactors of mankind.

## OBITUARY

### JOHN ISAAC BRIQUET

BOTANICAL science has suffered a grievous loss in the death of Dr. John Isaac Briquet, late director of the Conservatoire Botanique of Geneva, who passed away on October 26, 1931, after a brief illness.

Briquet was born in Geneva in 1870, studied botany under Schwendener, Engler, Thury, Jean Müller and Alphonse de Candolle, and attained the doctorate in 1891. For the remainder of his life he was connected with the Conservatoire Botanique, first as assistant director and later as director. During his administration several of the large herbaria of Geneva were consolidated and housed in the convenient building of the Conservatoire, together with an excellent library. Remarkably rich in valuable historical material, the collection at once took a place among the leading herbaria of the world.

His first extensive research was in the taxonomy of the genus *Galeopsis*; this led to an interest in the family Labiatae which continued to his death. His taxonomic work naturally took him into many diverse fields and resulted in a long list of publications. He was keenly interested in the flora of the southern Alps, contributing largely to Burnat's "Flore des Alpes Maritimes," and in cooperation with Cavillier continuing this important work after the death of the founder. Perhaps his most important floristic work is his "Prodrome de la Flore Corse." The breadth of his botanical knowledge is shown by numerous papers in various other fields of botany, including such diverse subjects as comparative anatomy and statistical methods. A list of his published works will include about four hundred titles.

Briquet early became interested in the difficult problems of botanical nomenclature. At the international congress in Paris in 1900 he was appointed *rapporteur* of the nomenclature commission and continued in this position until his death. He was personally largely responsible for the international code

adopted at Vienna in 1905 and revised at Brussels in 1910. When the questions of nomenclature were revived after the war, he attended the congress at Ithaca in 1926 and after it assumed the chief responsibility of the difficult preparation for the Cambridge congress of 1930, at which rules acceptable apparently to a large majority of botanists were adopted. Not only was his preliminary work of great value, but in the congress itself he was a power in directing and leading the thought and action of the delegates. Always cool and clear-headed, never confused by difficult questions, always understanding and in command of the situation, he did as much as or more than any other person to bring the nomenclatural discussion to a successful conclusion.

During his lifetime Briquet was the recipient of numerous honors. His doctorate thesis received the prize of the Academy of Sciences in Brussels. He was president of the Institut National Genèvois, of the Société de Physique et Sciences Naturelles de Genève and of the Société Botanique de Suisse; France admitted him to the Légion d'Honneur, and Cambridge conferred on him the doctorate *honoris causa*.

By the numerous Americans who have worked at his Conservatoire, his death is felt with especial sadness. Speaking English fluently, naturally genial in disposition, delighting to introduce visitors to the hospitality of his home, he invariably made their visit to Geneva pleasant as well as profitable.

H. A. GLEASON

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

### RECENT DEATHS

DR. GEORGE I. ADAMS, head of the department of geology in the University of Alabama, died on September 8 at the age of sixty-one years.

FRANCIS LA FLESCHÉ, ethnologist, son of the last chief of the Omaha Indian tribe, died on September 5