

Medical Association (1928-29), and president of the Phi Beta Kappa (1929). He was a member of the board of overseers of Harvard University for two terms and was one of the trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He received many honorary degrees, including that of LL.D. from Washington College (1927), from Edinburgh University (1927) and from McGill University (1929), that of Doctor of the University of Paris (1928) and that of Sc.D. from the University of Chicago. In May, 1927, a group of his friends made a gift endowing in perpetuity the "William Sydney Thayer and Susan Read Thayer Lectureship in Clinical Medicine," the income to provide for one or more lectures annually in the medical school, the lecturer to be selected from men distinguished in clinical medicine, pediatrics, neurology or border line branches.

Though intensely devoted to medicine, Dr. Thayer knew the importance of rest, recreation and diversion. He was an ardent sportsman and spent many of his summer vacations with a few boon companions in the wilds, making use of rod and gun. He enjoyed the company of congenial persons in dinner clubs and other social groups. He spent much time in reading good literature and had an intimate acquaintance with

the works of the better writers, especially the French. He was fond of poetry, learned many favorite poems by heart and wrote some verse himself. He was known to his friends as a lover of books, of people and of nature.

In the portrait of Dr. Thayer, painted by Leopold Seyffert, he appears in the U. S. uniform that he wore in France. A bronze tablet by J. Maxwell Miller (1912) is also much admired by those who knew him well.

A rare man, of unique personality—simple, courteous, attractive, high-minded, of unalterable integrity, just, tolerant and lovable—a cultivated man of many talents and of excellent qualities! In his death, Dr. Thayer's colleagues and friends and all who were fortunate enough to have the privilege of actual association with him experience a profound sense of sorrow and of personal loss; and internal medicine in the world at large laments the passing of a truly distinguished representative. The new generation, to which falls the task of finding the right way to further progress in clinical medicine, can not fail to be helped by a study of the life of, and by emulation of the example set by, Dr. William Sydney Thayer.

LEWELLYS F. BARKER

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC WORK UNDER THE GOVERNMENT

THE *Scientific Monthly* in its January number begins a series of articles on the scientific work of the government. President Hoover contributes an introduction and the Department of Agriculture is taken up first with articles by Secretary Arthur M. Hyde and Dr. A. F. Woods, director of scientific work. The introduction by President Hoover reads as follows:

The insatiable curiosity of the human mind to probe the mysteries of Nature through scientific research into the operation of natural laws has resulted in such wealth of new inventions and new products, so satisfying to material needs of the people, that the world is irrevocably committed to an eternal quest of further truth, with certainty of endless and ever more rapid change as new knowledge is translated into new conveniences and comforts. The social relations of mankind have already been altered by these changes beyond the utmost imagination of our forefathers. Further and more revolutionary changes will be wrought.

As government is the art of social relations under recognized authorities set up by the will of the people, any change wrought by scientific advance quickly produces new problems of government. The Federal Government itself long ago sensed the potentialities of science when it gave official status to the Smithsonian

Institution. From that pioneer body has flowed a stimulation to scientific research of the most valuable character, both directly in its own discoveries and indirectly through its leadership and inspiration of private institutions. Science is also recognized and encouraged by the Federal Government in the researches of the Department of Agriculture in biology, entomology and other fields; and similarly in other Departments which promote research. Thus the Government still does, and increasingly should, lead the way by example toward the discovery of new knowledge to free mankind from ignorance, superstition, needless fears and poverty. Nor should it be unremarked that a spiritual value accrues in all this labor, for science requires a degree of unselfishness and devotion which calls out the finest qualities of the human spirit, and, since its goal is truth, the noblest aspirations of mankind.

THE NEW REFRACTING TELESCOPE OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, of the completing in Germany of the 10-inch refracting telescope with the "Urania" type of mounting, for installation in the new Benjamin Franklin Memorial and the Franklin Institute, now under construction on the Parkway.

The telescope will be the first of its kind in the country, the mounting being planned to overcome the