between the National Research Council and a large number of research committees which were organized in American universities during the war. The results of this movement in the universities suggested the possibility of a study of the conditions affecting the research life of American institutions of higher education which, it was thought, might be helpful in bringing about larger development of research facilities in our educational institutions.

With this object in view the division undertook a study of means for the discovery and encouragement of students of superior capacity. In order to learn the experience which faculty members generally have had in meeting this problem the division arranged for representatives of the Council to visit a large number of colleges and universities. Altogether 326 such visits were made at 208 institutions in all parts of the country by eleven representatives of the Council during the seven years in which the division carried on this study.

One of the means considered for the encouragement of superior students was the development of honors courses and of plans for free study in the undergraduate years. The division issued a summary of the several types of honors courses as found in American institutions in 1924, and a year later a revision of this summary showing a considerable extension of honors systems in the liberalizing of the curriculum of that period. The division also considered the grouping of students, when classes are large, into sections on the basis of ability, as a device for benefiting especially the superior individual.

In order to direct the attention of gifted students to the opportunities for a worth-while career in research the division issued a series of over twenty pamphlets describing these opportunities in a number of callings. These papers were distributed without charge to faculty members of colleges and universities for use with their students, more than 128,000 copies having been circulated in this way. A number of other pertinent papers were also distributed, including an "Open Letter to College Seniors," designed to aid advanced students in the rational choice of a career. The division also cooperated with a committee of the American Association of University Professors in a study of means for increasing the intellectual interests of students.

In conjunction with the Divisions of Medical Sciences, and of Anthropology and Psychology of the Council, the Division of Educational Relations sponsored a survey of American schools for the deaf in 1924 and 1925 which became the starting point of a study of the physical causes of deafness, subsequently carried out by the Division of Medical Sciences, and led to the preparation by the Division of Anthropology and Psychology of an extensive program of studies upon psychological problems of deafness, many of which bear upon the special education of the deaf.

This division is therefore continued in the Council in order to provide an opportunity, as occasion may offer, for the study of similar problems of an educational character in which it may serve as a coordinating agency.

OBITUARY

ALBERT MARTIN BLEILE

THE death of Albert Martin Bleile, which occurred on August 16, 1933, brings to a close the career of one of the pioneer physiologists of this country. Dr. Bleile was born at Columbus, Ohio, on June 26, 1856. In 1876 he graduated from Starling Medical College, with the degree of doctor of medicine. He then went abroad and spent three years in study at Vienna, Leipzig and Paris. During this time he was a student of Professor Carl Ludwig. Upon his return to the United States, he began the practise of medicine, and also accepted the post of lecturer of experimental physiology at the Starling Medical College. At this time there was but one laboratory of experimental physiology in the United States, that of the late Professor H. Newell Martin, which had recently been established at the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Bleile's real interests did not lie in the practise of medicine; therefore, in 1891, when he was offered the post of professor of physiology at Ohio State University he gladly abandoned his practise and devoted his full time to teaching and research in the field of physiology. He continued in this position until 1931, when he was retired from active work with the title of professor emeritus, which he held at the time of his death.

Dr. Bleile's researches on blood sugar and the inversion of cane sugar by gastric juice were of fundamental importance and laid the foundation for modern investigation. He also published important work on the cause of death by electric shock, the composition of urine in epilepsy, the effect of section of the vagus nerve on the heart and on the detection and recognition of bloods.

During the latter part of his life he published nothing. This in a large part was due to his feeling that much of the flood of scientific literature was superficial and unimportant, and therefore, his failure to publish was at least in part a protest against such superficial work. However, he was always engaged in some type of experimental work, and was always ready and willing to give advice to his younger colleagues in

matters pertaining to their own research. Many of his students considered him cold and forbidding, but those who knew him best know that at heart he was a kindly old gentleman, always willing to be helpful to a student who was sincere and conscientious.

His death leaves a vacancy in the field of physiology which can not be filled. There are now left in the United States only two men who studied in Ludwig's laboratory, Professor Warren P. Lombard, of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Henry Sewell, of Denver, Colorado.

F. A. H.

WILLEM STORM VAN LEEUWEN

ON July the thirtieth there died in the prime of life one of the leading pharmacologists of Europe. Willem Storm van Leeuwen was born in Kampen, Holland, on December 7, 1882. The son of an army officer, he obtained his early education in the military academy of Breda. He was graduated as a cavalry officer and sent on service to the East Indies in 1905. There he contracted malaria, and he was forced to return to Holland in 1907, when he began his medical studies in Utrecht, receiving his degree in 1912.

His interests lay in research and he became an assistant to the famous pharmacologist, Rudolf Magnus, with whom he continued until the world war. During the war, Storm van Leeuwen substituted for Magnus at the University of Utrecht, delivering lectures and carrying on research until 1920, when he was made professor of pharmacology and director of the Therapeutic Institute in Leiden, where he was active until his death.

In 1919, prior to his appointment as professor in Leiden, Storm van Leeuwen made a visit to the United States, where he met many scientists and visited numerous laboratories. His impressions of America were described in a book which won for him many friends, on the one hand, and a number of enemies, on the other, because he never minced words, told the truth and denounced sham.

The earlier researches of Storm van Leeuwen dealt with anesthesia and narcosis. Another important earlier contribution was a study on the relation between the concentration and biological effect of drugs and poisons. This research led him into the fascinating field of synergism and antagonism of drug mixtures, in which he was a pioneer worker. In addition to miscellaneous researches on digitalis, belladona, ergot, vitamins, etc., Professor Storm van Leeuwen devoted much of his time during the last decade to the study of asthma, hay fever and various forms of allergy. Here some of his most valuable contributions to medicine were made. He was one of the earliest investigators to emphasize the importance of air conditioning; that is, of freeing the air of all allergic particles in connection with the treatment of patients suffering from such diseases. Being interested not only in theoretic pharmacology but also in its practical applications to therapeutics, Storm van Leeuwen combined his laboratory researches with clinical tests which he carried on in a private clinic of his own and also in the municipal hospital at Leiden. His studies on bronchial asthma and other allergic diesases led him into the domain of climatology and meteorology, so that in the last few years of his life he spent considerable time at Innsbruck, observing the effects of atmospheric electricity, ionized gases and various meteorological factors on physiological and pharmacological phenomena.

Professor Storm van Leeuwen's publications number more than 150, and fully half of them deal with various phases of anaphylaxis, allergy and allied conditions. Next in importance are his papers on synergism and antagonism of drugs. Other publications deal with the absorption of poisons, the influence of colloids on the action of drugs, the relation of avitaminosis to pharmacological action, the pharmacology of sulfur, salicylates, hypnotics, anesthetics, tuberculin and other drugs. He was also the author of several larger handbooks. The most important of these are his "General Pharmacology," written in Dutch, and his treatise on "Allergic Diseases," published in Dutch, German and English.

Professor Storm van Leeuwen was one of those pharmacologists who believed in combining laboratory experiment with carefully controlled clinical investigation; in other words, he made the practical application of pharmacology to therapeutics. Not only was Storm van Leeuwen an excellent lecturer and teacher, but he also possessed the rare ability of popularizing important scientific findings for the benefit of the intelligent laity.

Perhaps his most outstanding personal traits were his scientific sincerity, his devotion to and his admiration of scientific investigators, irrespective of social or political status, race or creed, and his hatred of hypocrisy and adulation in academic circles. He was no false hero worshipper nor devotee of what E. T. Dingwall, psychologist, has recently termed "the new witchcraft, under the spell of which the scientific manner of thinking is forgotten and the student accepts conclusions because they are advocated by some person of prominence." It was probably for this reason that he disliked the modern Nazi "kultur," but was a lifelong friend of such German scholars as the late Maximilian Harden, Rudolf Magnus, and others.

The death of Storm van Leeuwen is a heavy loss not only to his family and friends but also to all those seriously engaged in the pursuit of scientific truth in general and of pharmacology in particular.

DAVID I. MACHT