

SECTION ON EDUCATION (Q)

(Report from Noel Keys)

Four half-day sessions, each devoted to a common theme, were followed by two joint sessions with Section I and the Western Psychological Association, reported elsewhere. In the Wednesday morning symposium on "Difficulties in Reading" four papers were presented. Professor Peter L. Spencer, of Claremont Colleges, reported the failure of seventeen tests to disclose any consistent tendency in kindergarten to second grade children to favor the use of one hand, eye or foot over the opposite member. He did, however, find superior reading discrimination on the part of the exophoric child. Sixteen hundred seventh grade children tested over a fourteen-month interval showed better than average progress in reading on the part of the myopic and below normal progress for those suffering from hyperopia or strabismus, according to Principal L. P. Farris, of Oakland High School. Dr. Grace Fernald, of the University of California at Los Angeles, in presenting the remarkable result obtained with extreme cases of reading disability through utilization of motor imagery, suggested that the current practise of requiring reading in advance of writing instruction is accountable for many of the difficulties of this problem group. Dr. W. M. Danner, Jr., of Stanford University, testified to the striking improvement in reading skill of university students resulting from the provision of individual observation and tuition periods for those below standard.

The Tuesday afternoon session was devoted to investigations in subjects other than reading. Irving Melbo, of the University of California, reported senior students in small California communities equalling if not excelling those in metropolitan high schools in information on current social issues, with boys excelling the girls. Dr. L. C. Gilbert, of the University of California, summarized experiments evidencing the significant rôle of reading in the improvement of spelling on high-school and college levels. Miss Velma Woods and Mr. Wyman Olson, both of the University of California, analyzed, respectively, the arithmetic errors of teachers of college students in four states and the inability of university students in education to interpret critically the experimental literature in their field.

In the Wednesday morning session on problems of maturation Professor E. A. Lincoln, of Harvard University, presented an admirable account of the Harvard Growth Study, now completing its twelfth year, with a résumé of the seventeen doctoral dissertations which have already resulted. His conclusion was that growth and growth curves are highly specific, so that the individual differs not only from others of his kind, but from himself at other periods. This thought was carried further by Mr. Hubert Armstrong, of the Oakland Department of Child Welfare, who called attention to certain fallacies in the indiscriminate application of the mental age concept. Dr. Helen Pryor, of the University of California, then presented data as to physiological aspects of adolescent development in girls, as obtained from the California Adolescent Study. The close association of the broader body build with early onset of catamenia was particularly striking.

Wednesday afternoon was given over to investigations bearing on leadership and responsibility in school pupils, with Superintendent E. A. Lee, of San Francisco, presiding. Professor Floyd Caldwell, of the Chico State Teachers College, made clear the tendency for prestige to spread far beyond the limits of the individual's special competence. College students, for example, rated General Pershing not far below Einstein as an authority on mathematics. Dr. Marion Brown, of the University of California, pointed out that the more prominent leaders in student activities of University High School were characterized by superior intelligence, scholarship and appearance, and younger than the average of their group. Professor Noel Keys, of the University of California, in reporting on some three hundred students who have entered the university over a nine-year period under the age of sixteen and a half, showed these not only to have excelled in scholarship and attendant honors, but to have participated in more than the average number of activities and made generally favorable adjustments. The wide variety of practises prevailing with regard to the extent of freedom allowed, and the opportunity afforded for the exercise of responsibility on the part of students in different types of schools was revealed by a survey conducted by Dean Grayson N. Kefauver, of Stanford University.

OBITUARY

RICHARD THORNTON FISHER

RICHARD THORNTON FISHER, head of the Harvard Forest School and director of the Harvard Forest since their inception in 1903, died suddenly of a heart attack on June 9.

Dr. Fisher was graduated from Harvard University in 1896. Shortly thereafter he entered the Bureau of Forestry where, under Gifford Pinchot, he greatly furthered the Napoleonic campaign of setting aside the vast areas which now form the bulk of the Na-

tional Forests in the western states. He took his master's degree at the Yale Forest School in 1902 and followed this with study abroad. On his return, President Eliot selected him to head the new Harvard Forest School. His unceasing devotion, his thorough knowledge and his quiet courage and persistence have given us the Harvard Forest at Petersham, Mass.—a managed forest, nearly self-supporting and rich in opportunity for students of conservation and nature.

His death was a great and sudden shock. He was seemingly in the prime of life the day before. He was a pioneer in his field at a time when scientific forestry was distinctly a novelty in this country, yet he never claimed too much. His enthusiasm was not boisterous, nor his courage aggressive, yet he possessed a quiet persistence and depth and sincerity of feeling that won many to faith in his work.

"Dick" Fisher was liked by all who knew him and loved by those privileged to closer intimacy. His interests were many; he was fully aware of the poetic and romantic side of forestry, and his knowledge of scientific matters was rivaled in no small measure by his interest in wild life, especially birds. Yet he was so unassuming that close acquaintance was essential to proper appreciation of the great breadth of his knowledge. He was probably the greatest silviculturist of the present era.

Whatever he did he did well. There were no half-way measures in his make-up. Despite his numerous activities and interests, he would meet each new situation in the same quiet, perceptive, fair-minded and occasionally half-humorous fashion. Many will grieve over his passing; particularly those of us who were so fortunate as to have studied under him and who, deeply touched by his quiet sincerity and enthusiasm, will always carry with us the memory of a great teacher and a most gallant gentleman.

H. H. TRYON

THE BLACK ROCK FOREST

RECENT DEATHS

WILLIAM HULTZ WALKER, director and specialist in patents of the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company at Cambridge, Massachusetts, non-resident professor of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was killed in an automobile accident on July 9. He was sixty-five years old.

DR. WILBUR MORRIS STEIN, electrical engineer, who from 1887 to 1909 held professorships successively in the Ohio University, the Armour Institute of Technology and Swarthmore College, died on July 4, at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. GREGARIO M. GUITERAS, until his retirement in 1927 surgeon in the Public Health Service, known for his work on yellow fever, died on July 5, at the age of seventy-one years.

JOHN E. STOCKER, associate professor of mathematics at Lehigh University, died on July 5, at the age of sixty years.

DR. ARTHUR PRINCE CHATTOCK, emeritus professor of physics at the University of Bristol, known for his work on the movement of gaseous ions and the measurement of small pressure differences, died on July 1 at the age of seventy-three years.

M. G. FOSTER, son of Sir Michael Foster and author of numerous papers on balneology and climatology, died on June 16, at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE REV. GIUSEPPE GIANFRANCESCO, S.J., director of the radio station and of the ultra short-wave apparatus at the Vatican, formerly director of the Gregorian Academy of Sciences, and since 1921 president of the Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze, died on July 9, at the age of fifty-nine years.

MEMORIALS

A PORTRAIT of the late Professor David S. Kellicott, first director of the Lake Erie Laboratory of the Ohio State University, was presented to the laboratory at its opening session. The memorial was arranged for by his daughter, Miss Gertrude Kellicott, prior to her death in July, 1932.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, in memory of the late Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, a hall will be built on the site of the cottage where he was born beside Lake Inawashiro in north-eastern Japan. The committee aims to collect 100,000 yen to erect the hall and to repair the old house where his parents and brothers and sisters lived. In the hall will be kept various articles he had used, some sent back from America. Marquis Okuma and Dr. Shinjyo, president of the Kyoto Imperial University, are members of the committee.

THE Post Office Department at Colon, Panama, has announced that a new three-cent stamp in honor of General Goethals will be issued on August 15, the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal to commercial traffic. Three million copies will be printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington to replace the current United States three-cent stamp. The design for the new stamp has been approved by Colonel George R. Goethals, son of the builder of the canal.

ACCORDING to *Nature* the Soviet postal authorities have issued a series of new postage stamps to commemorate the centenary this year of the birth of Mendeléeff. The new issues are of five, ten, fifteen and twenty kopek denominations. The five and the twenty kopek denominations bear a design of the Mendeléeff