OBITUARY

COLLIER COBB

COLLIER COBB, professor of geology at the University of North Carolina for forty-two years and head of the department of geology for thirty-nine years, died at Chapel Hill on November 28, 1934, after an illness of more than a year. Professor Cobb was one of the pioneers in North Carolina geology and the first to become head of the department of geology. Previous to that time geology had been chiefly taught along with chemistry or zoology by the professor, who was also state geologist, beginning with Denison Olmsted in 1824 (the first state geologist in the United States), and ending with Professor J. A. Holmes, who later resigned as state geologist to organize and become the first head of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

After two years' study at Wake Forest College and one year at the University of North Carolina, Professor Cobb entered Harvard University, where he took his A.B. and M.A. degrees. For two years before going to the University of North Carolina he served as instructor in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Professor Cobb has a notable record as an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher. He believed that the spirit of the subject was more important than the letter, and with this same appreciation many of his students have gone out into positions of responsibility and honor.

Professor Cobb was a native of North Carolina and was noted for his devotion to his state and its institutions, but this fact did not in any way limit his keen interest in travel and in world affairs and he was nearly as well known abroad as in the United States. His striking personality, keen intellect and remarkable memory, coupled with a wealth of rare anecdotes, made him a central figure in any group.

In his studies Professor Cobb covered a wide field of thought, although his greatest interest was in the work of the wind in desert and shore areas, as is indicated by: "Where the Wind Does the Work," "Lands and Dunes of Gascony" and the "Loess Deposits of China." Because of his travel and great interest in peoples and customs he will, perhaps, be best remembered in the scientific world as a human geographer and as a student of shore-lines and shoreline processes. Most of his scientific publications deal with one or the other of these two subjects.

The early intellectual development of Professor Cobb was remarkable. At the age of nine years he began the publication of *The Home Journal* in Shelby, N. C. He was editor, illustrator, printer and distributor. Many of the illustrations were drawn on wood blocks for printing and showed marked artistic ability.

Professor Cobb was such a keen observer of people, languages and customs and so well acquainted with different types of people that he was usually able to tell from what country and frequently from what province a foreigner had come. When meeting a new class for the first time it was his custom, as students responded to the roll-call, to tell them the state they came from and the county, if from North Carolina, and frequently much about their people.

Professor Cobb was a fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of many societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association of American Geographers, the Boston Society of Natural History, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the Seismological Society of America, the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, the North Carolina Academy of Science and Sigma Xi.

Professor Cobb resigned as head of the department of geology in 1932 and began the preparation of a book of reminiscences. It is very unfortunate that he did not live to finish this work, which held so much of interest for many people here and abroad.

WM. F. PROUTY

THOMAS HUSTON MACBRIDE

IN the death of Thomas Huston Macbride society lost a useful citizen, university life lost an inspiring leader, and science lost an able and devoted worker. He sold the idea of beauty to the people of Iowa, showing them how the ugly could be transformed to the beautiful. A striking example of this was his successful efforts in beautifying public squares, parks and cemeteries in communities throughout the state. He saw beauty, actual or potential, everywhere. Whether in the prairies, streams, lakes and groves of Iowa, the desert regions of the Southwest, or the mountains, shores and evergreen forests of the Northwest he always saw beauty as he went about his scientific work, and aroused enthusiasm for preserving this beauty and for restoring it where it had been destroyed. He saw beauty in the cabins and sod houses of the Iowa pioneers.

In his academic life his high personal ideals, his kindness and the beauty of his teaching had effects on his colleagues and his students which will last a long time. To his students he taught more than botany: he taught ideals of life and appreciation of beauty. Many took his courses, not because they wanted botany, but because they wanted to sit in the presence of a great personality.

Born at Rogersville, Tenn., on July 31, 1848, the son of a minister, he went with the family by wagon

to Iowa in 1854. There the family lived on the prairie and Thomas, the oldest of the children, worked all week for neighbors and came home on Sunday for religious worship and training. He was at Monmouth College from 1865 to 1869, studying mainly Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and Bible. He took only one year of science (botany and physiology). He received the following degrees—A.B., Monmouth, 1869; A.M., 1873; LL.D., 1914; Ph.D., Lennox College, 1895; LL.D., Coe College, 1915. In 1891 he studied in Strasburger's laboratory at the University of Bonn, and also visited Pasteur's laboratory at the Institute in Paris.

He was professor of mathematics and modern languages at Lennox College (Hopkinton, Iowa) from 1870 to 1878. At the State University of Iowa he was assistant professor of natural science from 1878 to 1884, professor of botany from 1884 to 1914, and president from 1914 to 1916. He was president emeritus of this university from 1916 to the time of his death. He lived in Seattle from 1924 to the time of his death on March 27, 1934. For several years previous to 1924 he had divided his time between Iowa City and Seattle.

In science his contributions began with his trips over the prairies of Iowa on foot and by team with his lifelong friend, Thomas Calvin, for the study of geology and botany, and were continued in his trips to the southwestern and northwestern United States and also to Mexico and Europe. Outstanding accomplishments of his scientific career were his field collection of Cycads, his special study of slime moulds, and his establishment of the Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji, Iowa. In June, 1934, the University of Iowa commemorated his service there by naming the natural science building Macbride Hall.

Among his professional publications are numerous chapters in the Reports of the Iowa Geological Survey, papers in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science, his "Text-book of Botany," the three editions of his "North American Slime-Moulds," and "The Myxomycetes"; a descriptive "List of the Known Species with Special Reference to those Occurring in North America." The last, in collaboration with Dr. G. W. Martin, was published after Dr. Macbride's death. Other tangible results of his work are his collections of plants distributed to various herbaria, the fossil Cycads which he discovered in the Black Hills of the Dakotas and distributed to the British Museum and other institutions, and the teaching and research facilities available at the Macbride Lakeside Laboratory on the shore of Lake Okoboji in northern Iowa.

Many of his public addresses were published, and he wrote, by request, many newspaper articles dealing with the state of Iowa and its university. Two volumes of his addresses (1916 and 1925) were published under the title "On the Campus." His sympathetic interpretation of the life and ideals of the early pioneers of Iowa found expression in his volume "In Cabins and Sod Houses" (1928). He also published notes on his experiences at Bonn and various travel notes.

It was my privilege to know Dr. Macbride over a long period of years, and I owe much to the influence of his charming personality, the breadth of his scholarship, his love of nature, his skilful teaching and his enthusiasm for research. It was he who, in my freshman year, first gave me an insight into the field of botanical science, and it was he who, in the years when he was growing old beautifully in Seattle, was still a valued friend and counselor.

GEO. B. RIGG

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TELEVISION IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE London *Times* reports that a television advisory committee has been appointed by the postmaster-general to cooperate with the British Broadcasting Company in the inauguration of public television service.

The question of a suitable site for the London station is an important one. To ensure a sufficiently large area of service it is essential that the sending aerial of the station should be on an elevated site, since, in the case of the ultra-short waves to be used, it is necessary to have a substantially uninterrupted path between the sender and receiver. It is also desirable that the sending station should be in the center of a densely populated area.

One of the best sites is at the top of the Crystal Palace Tower, which has been used since June, 1934, for experimental and developmental work, and is now fitted with the required studios and laboratories. Vision signals are now sent out on a wave-length of 7 meters, while the accompanying sound is radiated on 8.5 meters, and demonstrations of satisfactory reception of both vision and sound have been given at places as far as twenty-five miles from the Crystal Palace.

Two new Baird home televisors have been demonstrated on the Crystal Palace signals. One model showed a brilliant black and white picture 8 inches by 6 inches in size, while the *de luxe* model gave a picture of 12 inches by 9 inches, suitable for an audience of thirty people.

Baird Television, Inc., has also demonstrated the