tation. He was the first of the three in 1900 who announced the discovery of the laws of Mendel from their own independent investigations. His name is more closely associated, however, with the mutation theory which he announced in 1901. In this, from study of a wealth of material, he was able to distinguish between fluctuating variations caused by the environment and changes due to the sudden origin of a new hereditary unit which he called a mutation.

In the evening primrose (*Oenothera Lamarckiana*) upon which the mutation theory was largely based, de Vries thought he had found a species in a state of rapid mutation to "elementary species." The literature on the genetics of this form from the pen of de Vries and his followers has reached a large volume, but it is now agreed that most of its frequent mutations are not due to new hereditary units (or genes, as we now call them) but rather to alterations in genic balance brought about by changes in amounts of relatively large blocks of chromosomal material. This change in interpretation does not detract from the value of the mutation theory which was a tremendous stimulus to research and which has become firmly established from facts in a wide range of forms among both animals and plants.

The mutation theory alone appears to be an inadequate explanation of the origin of species, but if the study of evolution ever becomes thoroughly experimental, as there are indications may be the case, a large share in the credit will be due to Hugo de Vries.

De Vries was born in Haarlem on February 16, 1848. His doctorate was received from the University of Leiden in 1870. After study in German universities, he was called in 1877 to a lectureship in the University of Amsterdam, where later he was advanced to the professorship of plant physiology, a position which he retained until he retired in 1918 at the age of 70. Upon this occasion his papers were reprinted in a series of seven volumes entitled "Opera e Periodicis Collata." His later years were spent in Lunteren, Holland, where he had a small greenhouse and garden in which he continued his experiments on the evening primroses almost to the end. He three times visited this country: in 1904 when he helped to dedicate the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and gave a course of lectures at the University of California; in 1906 again to give lectures at the University of California and in 1912, when he came to give an address at the opening of the Rice Institute.

Among published photographs of de Vries and accounts of his life may be mentioned those by Lehman,[1] Almquist,[2] Shull[3] and the writer.[4]

[1] E. Lehman, "Hugo de Vries, 6 Vorträge zur feier Seines 80. Geburtstages." Tübinger Naturw. Abhandl. 62 pgs. F. Enke: Stuttgart, 1929.

Few scientists have influenced so profoundly the theory and experimental practice in their fields of research as did de Vries. He brought to bear upon his investigations a combination of mental qualities which are rarely developed to the same degree in a single individual. He was a keen observer, a patient accumulator of data, an untiring and meticulous experimenter, skilful in interpretation of evidence and yet able to relate his findings to broad problems of fundamental importance. He was a man of theory and vision as well as a gatherer of details in laboratory and garden, a pioneer and prophet. The name of Hugo de Vries will forever remain an inspiration to all biologists.

ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE

WILLIAM PARKER CUTTER

WILLIAM PARKER CUTTER, librarian of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, died at the Massachusetts General Hospital on May 20, 1935, and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington, on May 22.

Mr. Cutter had been connected with several scientific institutions and important libraries in the United States before assuming charge of the library of the Bermuda Biological Station. He was born at Washington, D. C., on December 19, 1867; graduated at Cornell University in 1888; was chemist at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Logan, Utah, from 1890–1893; librarian of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, from 1893–1900; chief of the order department of the Library of Congress, 1901–1904; librarian of the Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts, 1904–11; librarian of the Engineering Societies, New York, 1911–17; manager of the book department of the Chemical Catalog Company, 1918–20; librarian, Research Library, National Aniline and Chemical Company, 1921–22; director of the information department, Arthur D. Little, Inc., 1922–27; assistant librarian, Baker Library, Harvard University, 1928–32; librarian, Bermuda Biological Station, 1933–35. He was a member of the American Library Association and secretary of the joint committee on Classification of Technical Literature, 1915–17. He was the author of "Rare Books and Their Values," 1903, and also of various articles on library topics.

In his last years Mr. Cutter's health was frail, and he sought relief from the extremes of the New England climate in the more equable climate of Bermuda, where

[2] Ernst Almquist, "Grosse Biologen. Eine Geschichte der Biologie und ihrer Erforscher." 143 pgs., J. F. Lehmann, München, 1931.

[3] G. H. Shull, *Journal of Heredity*, 24: 3–6, 1933.

[4] A. F. Blakeslee, *Scientific Monthly*, 36: 279–280, 1933. This article has been drawn upon in preparation of the present note.

he was appointed librarian of the new Bermuda Biological Station for Research. There he reorganized and in large part catalogued the books, journals and pamphlets already on hand, as well as about 600 newly acquired volumes, and some 20 journals and serial publications obtained by gift or purchase. He also superintended repairs to many old volumes that had suffered injury, and he devised ingenious means of protecting books from mould and the ravages of insects, which are such a serious menace to libraries in warm countries.

His most important service at the Bermuda Station consisted in planning and supervising the conversion of an unused power house, near the main building, into a well-lighted, commodious and fireproof library building and in equipping this and transferring to it the publications from the crowded quarters in the main building. On March 30 last the new library was formally opened by His Excellency, the Governor of Bermuda, in the presence of a distinguished company of scientists, officers and trustees of the station and other invited guests, and on that occasion tribute was paid to Mr. Cutter by the director of the station, Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, the senior trustee in Bermuda, Honorable F. Goodwin Gosling and by Mr. Paul Vanderbilt, librarian of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art, a former pupil and associate of Mr. Cutter, who called him "one of the greatest librarians of the United States." Mr. Cutter was present and took part in the formal opening of the library, and it is a source of gratification to his many friends that he lived to see the consummation of his plans for the new library and to receive the tributes which were paid to him on that occasion.

EDWIN G. CONKLIN

MEMORIALS

THE trustees of Columbia University have voted to name the Astronomical Observatory the Rutherfurd Observatory, in honor and in memory of Lewis M. Rutherfurd, who was the first astronomer to introduce photographic methods of precision in the field of astronomy.

A TABLET in memory of Dr. William H. Welch was unveiled on June 5 at the Happy Hills Convalescent Home for Children near Bellevue, Md. Dr. Welch was one of the founders of the home and its first and only president.

THE state of New York, Schenectady County and Union College joined on May 29 in a memorial celebration for Dr. Franklin B. Hough, "Father of American Forestry," in simple ceremonies in the college building, where he first worked with "botanical and mineralogical specimens," for which he gave up the practice of medicine to crusade for the conservation of natural resources in New York and in the nation. An oil portrait of Dr. Hough, who died in 1885, was presented to Union College by J. P. Apperson, chairman of Governor Herbert H. Lehman's committee for celebrating New York's fifty years of conservation in Schenectady County. Dr. Willis R. Whitney, of the General Electric Company, and a trustee of Union College, was chairman of the exercises. Lithgow Osborne, state conservation commissioner; Mr. Apperson and Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, president of Union College and a member of Governor Lehman's general celebration committee, spoke.

MARIE CURIE AVENUE, New York City, which parallels the East River from Sixty-third to Eightieth Street, was officially dedicated on June 9 by Mayor F. H. La Guardia at the close of ceremonies attended by representatives of the Polish and French Consulates. More than 3,000 persons were present. The occasion marked the thirty-seventh anniversary of the discovery of radium.

A BANQUET in support of a British memorial to Madame Curie was held recently in London. The purpose was to raise $250,000 for the endowment and extension of the Marie Curie Hospital of London. Sir Neville Chamberlain, who took the chair, said that he had been asked to do so because of his long association with the ministry of health. Sir William Bragg was the principal speaker.

RECENT DEATHS

ADAM M. MILLER, dean of the Long Island College of Medicine, died suddenly at his home in Mountain Lakes, N. J., on May 28, 1935. He had been dean for fifteen years and professor of anatomy since 1914. During his tenure of administrative office he played a most important part in the reorganization of the college as it merged from the Medical College of the Long Island College Hospital into its present status. He was born in Homewood, Pa., on April 2, 1879. He graduated from Princeton, A.B., 1901, M.A., 1902, and remained there as a graduate fellow in biology under Edwin G. Conklin until 1903. He then joined the staff of George S. Huntington at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, where he continued his studies in embryology. It was there that he, in collaboration with Frederick R. Bailey, published the "Text-Book on Embryology." From 1903 to 1912 he was instructor in the department of histology and embryology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and from 1912 to 1914 was assistant professor of anatomy. He went to Brooklyn in 1914 as professor of anatomy at the Long Island College Hospital.