

foremost scientists, among them Dr. Pavlov, whose work on conditioned reflexes is well known in this country. Dr. Pavlov heads a division of the institute remaining near Leningrad, and a special "Pavlov Biological Station" has been built and equipped for his work. He is in charge of a series of clinics in process of organization dealing with metabolism, internal secretions, infections, neuro-surgery and neuro-psychiatry. He is deeply interested in the problem of applying his findings in the treatment of mental and nervous diseases. The institute as a whole is concerned with the study of all the physiological processes of the human organism in relation to the social environment, the application of the most modern achievements of chemistry and physics to medical and prophylactic work and the extension of experimental research.

There is a Central Scientific Council which coordinates the work of all the scientific research institutes so that the research workers will be kept constantly in touch with what others are doing in their own and related fields, and to insure the immediate application of all discoveries of practical value.

In the interest of furthering scientific interchange among all countries, the Soviet Union takes an active part in international congresses. Last year the International Congress for the Study of Rheumatism was

held in Moscow. This August we shall be hosts to the International Physiological Congress. I am glad to say that a large delegation of American physicians and scientists will attend, and I hope that some of you will be among them so that you will be able to observe at first hand the contributions the Soviet Union has been able to make to medical science. You will also have the opportunity to study our health system. Experience has proved that it is well devised, although the defects in its functioning are still numerous and there is much room for improvement.

In closing, I should like to express appreciation on behalf of my country to the American medical profession. We owe much of our progress in medical science to the achievements of America in this field. Our doctors who have visited this country have carried back much valuable information. Your doctors who have visited us have reported accurately and favorably on what they have seen. They have also helped us by their constructive advice. Our health authorities invited them on many occasions to give their frank opinion, and the competent criticism received has been welcomed and highly appreciated. May I express the hope for a greatly increased exchange of medical and scientific knowledge and experience between our countries in the future.

OBITUARY

BENJAMIN LINCOLN ROBINSON

ON July 27 American botany lost one of its eminent contributors and Harvard University lost the last of that older group of men who for many years carried on productive botanical work at Harvard and built solidly and well for the future, when Dr. B. L. Robinson died at his summer home at Jaffrey, New Hampshire, in the seventy-first year of his age. His wife, Margaret Louise Casson Robinson, died three years earlier.

Dr. Robinson was born at Bloomington, Illinois, on November 8, 1864. For a time he attended Williams College, later transferring to Harvard and receiving his B.A. degree from the latter institution in 1887, and his Ph.D. degree from Strassbourg in 1889. In 1890 he became an assistant in the Gray Herbarium and in 1892, after the death of Sereno Watson, was made curator, a position that he retained until his retirement in 1935. He was appointed Asa Gray professor of systematic botany at Harvard in 1900.

From 1892 to 1897 he served as editor of the "Synoptical Flora of North America," a comprehensive work initiated by his predecessors, Asa Gray and Sereno Watson. He also served as editor of *Rhodora* for twenty-nine years. His published papers on the floras of North and South America and the Galapagos

Islands form an extensive and important series of contributions to our knowledge of the botany of these regions. For many years he devoted his energies to the study of certain groups of the Compositae, becoming the world authority on the North and South American representatives of the Eupatorieae. He also edited, in association with M. L. Fernald, the seventh edition of Gray's "Manual of Botany," the standard descriptive flora of the northeastern United States.

Dr. Robinson's services to the Gray Herbarium were noteworthy. Its position, as to financial support, at the beginning of his career as curator in 1892, was very anomalous, for it was in no way financed by Harvard College. In 1897 its assured annual income was only about \$3,600, scarcely half the amount necessary, even at that time, for bare maintenance. Aided by the visiting committee, Mrs. Gray, friends of Asa Gray, and by various bequests, the invested funds and the reserve were augmented to somewhat over \$526,000, a twenty-fold increase, during Dr. Robinson's tenure of office. By 1900 the need of more commodious quarters was evident, and ten years later congestion had become acute. Between the years 1909 and 1915 funds were procured for the construction of the present model, fireproof, herbarium building, with its dust-proof and insect-proof steel cases, and other very mod-

ern equipment, in Dr. Robinson's own terms "setting a new and much-advanced standard for herbarium housing." If it had not been for his disinterested efforts the fate of the Gray Herbarium might easily have been a tragic one, in spite of the fact that its great collections of historical material make it of basic importance to North American botany. No wonder that Dr. Robinson was deeply concerned in planning for the perpetuation of the work of his eminent predecessors, Asa Gray and Sereno Watson, and the maintenance and expansion of work that they initiated.

Dr. Robinson's work received wide recognition in his election to numerous societies at home and abroad. He served as president of the Botanical Society of America in 1900 and as president of the New England Botanical Club from 1906 to 1908. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a foreign member of the Linnaean Society, London, and of the Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica; a corresponding member of the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft, the Botanischer Verein der Provinz Brandenburg, the Société botanique de Genève, the Institut genevois and the Czechoslovakian botanical society, and an honorary member of the Chilean society of natural history.

Quiet, unassuming, courteous in the extreme, a conscientious and efficient worker, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, Dr. Robinson will be missed by his colleagues and associates at Harvard, by that large group of botanists who were trained at Cambridge during his long tenure of office, and by that larger group of American and foreign botanists who have had the privilege of working for shorter or longer periods with the treasures of the Gray Herbarium. Under Dr. Robinson's leadership the Gray Herbarium attained a spirit of "Gemütlichkeit" unequalled in any other botanical institution with which I am personally familiar. The loss of his services to botanical science is a heavy one, but he leaves behind him a magnificent record of accomplishment.

E. D. MERRILL

RECENT DEATHS

GEORGE HALL HAMILTON, formerly official astronomer at the Harvard College branch observatory at Mandeville, Jamaica, died on August 6. He was fifty-one years old.

DR. JOHN W. KEEFE, of Providence, R. I., surgeon, a founder of the American College of Surgeons, died on August 4. He was seventy-two years old.

DR. HARRY BELLEVILLE ELSBERG, instructor in surgery in charge of the department of experimental surgery in the New York University Medical School, died on August 10. Dr. Elsberg was forty-two years old.

THE death at the age of seventy-seven years is announced of Professor Edouard Jeanselme, professor emeritus in the faculty of medicine of the University of Paris and dermatologist emeritus at the Hôpital St. Louis. Dr. Jeanselme is known for his work on syphilis and leprosy, and recently for his publications on the history of medicine.

DR. LYDIA RABBINOVITCH KEMPER, for many years director of the Bacteriological Institute of the Moabite Hospital, Berlin, died on August 5 at the age of sixty-four years.

Nature reports the death of Dr. Arthur Bramley, head of the department of pure and applied science at Loughborough College, on July 19, aged fifty-six years; of Sir John MacFarland, chancellor of the University of Melbourne since 1918, a member of the Royal Commission (1899) on Technical Education, Victoria, and of the Government Board (1908) for the Protection of Aborigines, on July 22, aged eighty-four years; and of L. M. Nesbitt, who was awarded the Murchison Grant in 1931 of the Royal Geographical Society for "his difficult journey through the Danakil country of Abyssinia," on July 20, as the result of an aeroplane disaster near the San Bernino Pass, Switzerland.

MEMORIALS

A BRONZE plaque of the late Dr. Aldred S. Warthin was presented to the University of Michigan School of Medicine on June 15 by those who had been connected with the department of pathology when he was director. The memorial hangs in the West Medical Building. Dr. Warthin was associated with the university from his graduation there in 1891 until his death in 1931; since 1903 he had been professor of pathology and director of the pathological laboratory.

BUSTS of Koch and Röntgen were added to the German Museum at Munich, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its foundation. The Municipal Moabite Hospital of Berlin has been renamed Robert Koch Hospital on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his death.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes: "Just as three years ago, in commemoration of the semi-centenary of the discovery of the tubercle bacillus, so now, on May 26, in celebration of the year of Koch's death, special ceremonies were organized, which the minister of the interior and the regional health officers were invited to attend. The memorial address was delivered by Professor Kolle, who was a pupil of Koch and