for nearly twenty years, but at the age of fifty-one Hooker retired and devoted a considerable part of his time in the last twenty years of his life to a continuation of the early work in the lapachol field. Publication of the results which accumulated during this period was withheld from a desire to bring the various interrelated problems to the point of well-rounded completion. This point had been reached at the time of Hooker's death on October 12, 1935, and the investigations were reported in a series of eleven posthumous papers published in the July issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* for 1936. These papers, which form a natural and logical continuation of those published forty years earlier, are reprinted with the earlier papers in the memorial brochure. The history of the investigations provides an unusual example of disinterested and sustained devotion to the quest of truth.

Included in the introductory material of the volume is an obituary sketch by Dr. C. A. Browne, supervisor of chemical research of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. This sketch, which is reprinted with some additional notes and details from the *Journal of the Chemical Society* (1936), includes an account of Hooker's activities in other fields, for he not only was distinguished as an organic chemist but made significant contributions as a sugar technologist, a collector of books and of works of art and as an amateur magician.

The publication of the memorial volume was authorized and financed by members of Dr. Hooker's family. The volume is edited by Professor Louis F. Fieser, Converse Memorial Laboratory, Harvard University, from whom copies desired by individuals or for libraries may be obtained on application.

## PRESENTATION OF THE PHILIP A. CONNÉ GOLD MEDAL TO DR. VAN SLYKE

DR. DONALD DEXTER VAN SLYKE, chief chemist of the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, received the Philip A. Conné Gold Medal for 1936 of the Chemists' Club of New York, for "systematic and painstaking work of immense importance to clinical medicine," at a dinner given at the club on January 22.

Dr. Van Slyke won the medal "in recognition of his methods of blood analysis and gasometric micro analysis, and of his work on respiratory and renal reactions, diabetes and nephritis." The presentation was made by Professor Marston Taylor Bogert, of Columbia University. Dr. A. Baird Hastings, of the Harvard University Medical School, and Dr. Glenn E. Cullen, of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation and the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Cincinnati, both of whom have collaborated with Dr. Van Slyke in researches, spoke on the scientific contributions of the medalist and personal aspects of his career. Dr. Frederick G. Zinsser, of Hastings-on-Hudson, president of the club, presided.

Dr. Van Slyke said that he accepted the award as "recognition of the chemists and young physicians, laboratory comrades of a score of years, who have really done the work mentioned by the medal committee." His medal address was entitled, "Mechanism of Neutrality Maintenance in the Body."

Dr. Van Slyke was born at Pike, N. Y., in 1883. His father, Lucius Lincoln Van Slyke, was chief chemist of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., from 1890 to 1931. After studying for a year at Hobart College, Dr. Van Slyke entered the University of Michigan, where, after working with Professor Moses Gomberg on derivatives of triphenyl methyl, he received the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1907. Since then he has been associated continuously with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

On leave of absence he was a graduate student at the University of Berlin in 1911. He was visiting professor at the University of California in 1917 and at the Peiping (China) Union Medical School in 1922. In the World War, at the request of the Surgeon General of the Army, he organized at the Rockefeller Institute a training class for chemists in the sanitary corps, and on the completion of this work in 1918 he was appointed a major in the sanitary corps, but the armistice prevented his receiving his commission.

From 1907 to 1914 he worked in the laboratory of P. A. Levene, with whom he was associated in studies of proteins and amino acids. During this period he developed the nitrous acid method for gasometric measurement of nitrogen in primary aliphatic amino groups, and with Gustav Meyer used the method to trace the path of protein digestion products through the animal body. From 1914 to the present he has been chief chemist at the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute. His studies there have been directed partly to problems of theoretical and analytical chemistry and partly to problems in clinical and related physiological fields.

The Conné Medal was founded by Mrs. Philip A. Conné, New York City, in memory of her husband. It is given annually "irrespective of color, creed, domicile, nationality or sex, to an individual responsible for a discovery in chemistry which has proved of value in the treatment of human disease." Previous recipients have been John J. Abel, H. D. Dakin, Lafayette B. Mendel and Edward Doisy.

Members of the medal jury, besides Professor Bogert, were Professor D. D. Jackson, of Columbia University, Dr. Walter W. Palmer, of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York; Dean William T. Read, of Rutgers University, and Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree, of the Philadelphia Institute for Medical Research.