HARRY WALTER TYLER
1863–1938

DR. HARRY W. TYLER, professor emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and formerly general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, died on February 3 in Washington of a heart ailment. Dr. Tyler, who had lived at the Cosmos Club for some months since the death of Mrs. Tyler, had become ill only a few hours before he died.

He was head of the department of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute from 1901 until his retirement in 1930. Since that time he had been living in Washington, serving as general secretary of the American Association of University Professors and as a consultant of the Library of Congress.

Professor Tyler had a long and distinguished career on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute, having joined the teaching staff at the time of his graduation in the class of 1884 and having had the rank of professor since 1893. In addition to the duties of professor of mathematics, Dr. Tyler has served as registrar of students and for many years as secretary of the faculty. Always a champion of the autonomy of the institute he fearlessly, logically and successfully supported its independence. As chairman of the Walker Memorial Committee he guided the campaign which brought into existence the splendid student center which has served so admirably for a score of years. Under his wise guidance, the department of mathematics became one of the first rank in this country.

For many years he was prominent in the American Association of University Professors, having been a charter member and having served as general secretary from 1916 until 1934. Upon his voluntary retirement in 1934, he was elected vice-president for 1934 and 1935 and editor of the *Bulletin,* the official publication of the association, which he edited until July 1, 1937. He rendered important service to the academic profession on behalf of academic freedom and tenure which will be of lasting benefit to the free spirit in our institutions of higher learning. Just prior to his death, Dr. Tyler had completed important chapters on "Academic Freedom" for the John Dewey Yearbook and for the Social Science Research Council.

When Dr. Tyler moved to Washington, D. C., he made a place for himself in the hearts of the alumni of the institute as he had among his associates in Cambridge. He became president of the Washington Society, and with his delightful sense of humor and winning leadership, his fellow alumni would have no other one for their president until he died.

A native of Ipswich, Massachusetts, Dr. Tyler, after graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1884, studied at the University of Göttingen and in 1889 received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Erlangen. In 1887, he married Miss Alice I. Brown, of Roxbury, Mass., who preceded him in death by only a few months. X.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. GEORGE ELLERY HALE, honorary director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, died on February 21 at the age of sixty-nine years.

DR. JOHN EDGAR COOVER, emeritus professor of psychology at Stanford University, died on February 19 at the age of sixty-five years.

M. CHARLES LALLEMAND, of Paris, retired inspector general of mines of France, member and past president of the Academy of Sciences, Institute of France, died on February 1 in his eighty-first year.

THE death at the age of seventy-three years is announced of Dr. W. W. Vaughan, from 1921 until his retirement in 1931 head master of Rugby Public School. He was a past president of the educational section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and served on the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education and on the government committee appointed in 1916 under the chairmanship of Sir J. J. Thomson, on the position of natural science in the educational system of Great Britain. He was a member of the council of the British Association and of the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies. His death resulted from a fall which occurred during his visit to India as a member of the delegation of the association to the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association.

FORMAL dedication of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial took place on February 11, the ninety-first anniversary of his birth. A luncheon was given at the Hotel Astor, New York City, during which a switch was thrown to light the tower which has been erected at Menlo Park, thirty miles away. The tower, which rises 131 feet above the site of the original Edison laboratory, where the incandescent lamp was perfected on October 21, 1879, is the gift of William S. Barstow, president of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation.

AT the exercises at the annual Alumni Day of the New York University College of Medicine on February 22, a symposium on heart disease was given as a tribute to Dr. John H. Wyckoff, at the time of his death last June dean of the college. Dr. Alfred E. Cohn presented a review of Dr. Wyckoff's contribution to the study of heart disease. Other speakers were Drs. Donal Sheehan, Charles E. Kossmann, Irving Graef, Isaac Seth Hirsch, Arthur C. De Graff, Currier McEwen, William Goldring and Clarence E. de la Chapelle.

AT a meeting on February 12 of the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri it was recom-

mended that the new Chemistry Building on the East Campus be named Schlundt Hall of Chemistry in honor of and in memory of the late Herman Schlundt, instructor and professor of chemistry in the university from 1902 to the time of his death in December, 1937. The resolution reads: "Professor Schlundt's long and distinguished service for the university amply merits such a memorial. His influence on the development of chemistry in the university and of scientific interest throughout the state has been conspicuous. His researches, especially in radioactivity, have notably increased the prestige of the university in educational circles. The inspiration which he gave to students throughout his career was unsurpassed. Moreover, the new Chemistry Building itself was constructed and equipped under his general direction, and its convenience and effectiveness are largely due to his expert advice. We are convinced that the early action of the Board of Curators in naming the building Schlundt Hall, as a memorial to Professor Schlundt, will meet with the enthusiastic approval of faculty and alumni alike."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY STATION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE Smithsonian Institution has closed its solar observatory station on the summit of Mount St. Katherine in the Sinai Peninsula, which was selected as the highest, driest spot available for human occupancy in the Eastern hemisphere by Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, after the advantages of numerous sites had been considered. The last observers, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Moore and Alfred G. Froiland, have now returned to the United States.

The station was set up to measure daily variations in the heat output of the sun which are believed to have significant although as yet not entirely predictable effects on the earth's weather. Observations were taken every clear day and data assembled which are now being studied.

The Sinai Peninsula station was established after a similar observatory in South Africa had proved unsuitable, and it formed one of a chain of three engaged in similar measurements. The other two are in the Western Hemisphere, and there was always the hope that weather in the Eastern Hemisphere would yield good observing days when it was unfavorable in the west. In order to function properly a station had to be in a sparsely populated land where there would be a minimum of dust in the air and in a country with a minimum of cloudiness. The mountain peak upon which the observatory was built is 8,600 feet high.

The decision to abandon the observatory was based in part on the difficulty of living conditions during the winter when, as was the case last year, the mountain sides were covered with snow and ice a good deal of the time. The practice was to take up supplies on camelback. Camels can not, or will not, go through snow. Consequently everything had to be carried up on the backs of the Bedouins. A great deal of the fundamental data for which the station was established had already been obtained. This had shown conclusively that the same solar changes found in the Western Hemisphere were observed also in the Eastern, and at some times of the year Mount St. Katherine had better observing weather than the western stations. Eventually the station may be reopened. By agreement with the monastery the furnishings have been stored, and the buildings will stand.

THE NEW SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE establishment of a School of Chemical Engineering as the fourth constituent unit of the College of Engineering at Cornell University has been announced. Dr. F. H. Rhodes, since 1920 professor of chemistry and chemical engineering, was named director of the new school, effective on July 1.

The curriculum will consist of a five-year course leading to the new degree of bachelor of chemical engineering. The facilities of the modern laboratory, made possible by a gift of $1,500,000 to the university by the late George F. Baker, will be coordinated with those of the College of Engineering to train men, not only in chemistry but also for the design, development and operation of actual producing units in chemical plants.

The new school is the outgrowth of a series of courses given in the past twenty-five years, during which there has been an increasing demand for chemists on the part of industry. In 1930 a five-year course in chemical engineering was started and administered jointly by the department of chemistry and the college of engineering. The enrolment in the course has grown so rapidly that while three seniors took the chemical engineering degree in 1932, this year there will be fourteen, and the total number of men registered in all five undergraduate classes is one hundred and fifty-eight. Graduates are accepted by industry as having the equivalent of a master's degree from other universities, and all but one of the Cornell graduates now hold responsible positions in the chemical industry. Cornell's chemical engineering curriculum is approved