

### HARVEY CUSHING'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

DR. HARVEY CUSHING's seventieth birthday on April 8, to which brief notice was given in these columns two weeks ago, is an event in American medicine of more than passing significance. Without fear of contradiction the *New England Journal of Medicine* at the time of his birthday referred to Dr. Cushing as the greatest figure that America has produced in medicine. His importance lies, not only in the fact that he has created a new field of surgery, but in his having established a school of surgery with ideals and traditions that have influenced the course of medicine in every civilized country. No other American physician in the annals of our history—not even Welch—has attracted so large a group of foreign pupils, and the altogether spontaneous outpouring which came on April 8 from his pupils and admirers in every corner of the world bears outspoken testimony to his enormous influence.

It devolved upon the Harvey Cushing Society, which elected to hold its eighth annual meeting in New Haven (April 6 to 8), to arrange the birthday party. In view of Dr. Cushing's well-known abhorrence of pomp and circumstance, the society insisted upon having a small family party restricted to its membership, one invited guest for each member, and several guest speakers. The society's usual program of papers was read on Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7; on Friday evening, Dr. J. F. Fulton gave an account of his trip by clipper to the southern Philippines in search of *Tarsius* monkeys, and on Saturday morning operations, clinics and experimental demonstrations were presented before the society. The birthday banquet took place on Saturday evening. Dr. Louise Eisenhardt, president of the society for 1939, was in the chair and opened the exercises by reading an amusing letter just received from President Roosevelt. The other speakers included: Dean Stanhope Bayne-Jones, of the Yale School of Medicine; Dr. W. W. Francis, protobibliothecary of the Osler Library and nephew of the late Sir William Osler; A. M. Muirhead, bibliographer and author of the life of Lady Osler, brought greetings from the British Empire and from the Osler Club of London; Dr. Olof Sjöqvist, of Stockholm, who presented a Swedish *festskrift* to Dr. Cushing; Dr. J. F. Fulton, who read extracts from among more than five hundred letters and telegrams received by Dr. Cushing

during the day; Dr. W. J. German, who read two letters from among some hundred and twenty received from patients from whom Dr. Cushing had removed meningiomas of the brain, and finally, Dr. Arnold C. Klebs, of Nyon, Switzerland, who came from Europe for the banquet and returned immediately after it was over.

Dr. Louise Eisenhardt then presented the society's gift to Dr. Cushing, which consisted of a specially bound copy of an annotated bibliography of all Dr. Cushing's writings. The bibliography had been prepared by the society as a surprise. Dr. Cushing then responded to the various tributes. His loyal operating room orderly, Adolph, was present at a suitable moment to mop his brow as in the old days in the operating theater.

There were four printed volumes issued in connection with Dr. Cushing's birthday:

1. A *festskrift* from Scandinavian neurologists and neurosurgeons containing 25 papers—all but two in English—issued under the editorship of Professor Herbert Olivecrona of Stockholm as a supplementary volume of *Acta Chirurgica Scandinavica*, 1939, vol. 82, 99–363.

2. A special number of the *British Journal of Surgery* dedicated to Dr. Cushing, containing a detailed report by Mr. William Henderson of the end-results of all Dr. Cushing's operations for pituitary adenomas. The title is as follows: "The pituitary adenomata. A follow-up study of the surgical results in 338 cases (Dr. Harvey Cushing's series)." *British Journal of Surgery*, 1939, vol. 26, pp. 809–921.

3. A special number of the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* containing all the papers read at the meeting and designated "The Cushing Anniversary Volume." It includes 26 papers.

4. An annotated bibliography of all Dr. Cushing's writings, issued by the Harvey Cushing Society. The volume was designed by Mr. Carl P. Rollins, printer, of Yale University, published by Mr. Charles C Thomas, who had issued four of Dr. Cushing's previous monographs, and printed by the George Banta Publishing Company. The title is as follows: "A Bibliography of the Writings of Harvey Cushing Prepared on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday, April 8, 1939," by The Harvey Cushing Society, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1939, xvi, 110 pp.

The speeches and extracts from letters and cables will presently be issued as a separate brochure by Mr. Charles C Thomas.

J. F. F.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. E. D. MERRILL, director of the Arnold Arboretum and administrator of the Botanical Collections of Harvard University, has been awarded the Linnean Gold Medal, given annually by the Linnean Society of London "to an eminent biologist as an expression of

the society's estimate of his services to science." He has also received through the State Department the gold medal of the Ministry of Agriculture of the French Republic and the corresponding diploma of the Société nationale d'acclimatation de France. These