

not only a loss to his relatives and friends, but to science.

FERNANDUS PAYNE

### ALMON ERNEST PARKINS

INCAPACITATED by hemiplegia since the previous September, Dr. A. E. Parkins, professor of geography at George Peabody College for Teachers, passed away at his home in Nashville, Tenn., on January 3, 1940.

Dr. Parkins was born at Marysville, Mich., on January 10, 1879. At the age of 17 he began teaching in the rural schools of Emmett Township, Mich., spending his summers as a wheelsman on the ore boats of the Great Lakes. Obtaining much of his training in the school of experience, he was a veteran teacher of 27 when he received the bachelor of pedagogy degree from the State Normal College at Ypsilanti, Mich., and was even more mature with several years' instruction in high-school and normal-college science to his credit when he finally received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago, the latter in 1914 at the age of 35. During his stay at Chicago he did much writing and research in the field of geography, the materials to be used in the courses and publications of Professors Barrows and Salisbury.

After receiving his doctorate he became instructor in agricultural geology and geography at the University of Missouri, and two years later (1916) joined the staff of George Peabody College for Teachers, where he served for twenty-three years.

In 1905 Professor Parkins married Miss Eleanor Grace Stone, of Port Huron, Mich., who survives him.

Dr. Parkins was an earnest traveler in so far as his teaching duties permitted. He frequently conducted student parties on trips through interesting geographical regions. His more extensive journeys with Mrs. Parkins included visits to the Pacific Coast, Canadian Northwest, Mexico, Newfoundland and Labrador and to Europe.

In his professional activities Dr. Parkins was most vigorous. His presidencies included that of the Tennessee Academy of Science in 1922, the National Council of Geography Teachers in 1925, the Association of American Geographers in 1929. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Council of Geography Teachers in 1934, and honorary M.Ed. from Ypsilanti State Teachers College in 1922. For considerable periods he was editor of the *Annals*

of the Association of American Geographers, associate editor of the *Journal of Geography*, chairman of the 1933 Yearbook, National Society for the Study of Education. He was often consultant, as of the Cotton Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, in 1935.

Of his several books the most recent was the monumental "Our Natural Resources and Their Conservation," which he edited with the collaboration of J. Russell Whitaker. The list of his contributions to geographical and educational magazines and the materials he prepared or revised for classroom use would be long indeed.

There are few really great teachers in any age. Dr. Parkins undoubtedly belongs in the list of the great. All of us connected with the college will miss him. His students will feel his absence even more than the rest of us. He was, first and last, a great teacher.

S. C. GARRISON

H. A. WEBB

GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS

### RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILLIAM D. HAGGARD, of Palm Beach, Florida, past president of the American Medical Association and of the American College of Surgeons, at one time professor of surgery and clinical surgery in the department of medicine at Vanderbilt University, died on January 28 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. HAROLD MESTRE, dean of Bard College of Columbia University at Annandale-on-Hudson, died on September 9 in his fifty-sixth year. Dr. Mestre was assistant professor of biophysics at Stanford University from 1928 to 1933 and was for one year honorary fellow in the School of Medicine of Yale University. He became professor of biophysics at Bard College in 1937 and was made dean in 1938.

DR. MARION MACKENZIE, who retired as professor of biology at Temple University, Philadelphia, in 1930, died on February 4.

THE Animal Husbandry Building of the Ohio State University, which has been re-named Plumb Hall in memory of the late Professor Charles Sumner Plumb, who until his retirement in 1931 with the title emeritus was for thirty-seven years professor of agricultural chemistry in the College of Agriculture, was dedicated on February 2.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

THE address on January 4 of the president of the New York Academy of Medicine reviews the activities of the academy during the year 1939. He points out

that "in some respects, the academy has made greater contributions during the past year to public welfare, to the welfare of medical education in general, to the welfare of its fellowship, than ever before in its his-

tory." He says, however, that in other ways this has been a disappointing year. He writes in part:

The finances of the academy continue to be a matter of great concern, and because of the necessity for balancing the budget, we have been forced to curtail our activities to such an extent that we can no longer be quite so efficient as in the recent past. This curtailment of activities in every department has been forced upon us because the requested budget for 1940 so far exceeds the academy's income. I regret to say that only a small percentage of the academy fellowship has given the Fund-Raising Committee its enthusiastic support, either through direct financial contributions or by making individual efforts toward increasing academy endowment.

Your Budget Committee has had a good deal of advice as to how the budget may be balanced. It has even been suggested that one activity might be dropped entirely. I can tell you that if all three of the Standing Committees of the academy were abolished, with their paid staffs, the surplus remaining after the budget had been balanced in this manner would be scarcely over five thousand dollars. And then, one day the question might again be raised, as to whether the academy was properly an educational institution, or if it was not rather a private institution maintaining a library and section meetings for the benefit principally of its fellowship.

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So we find ourselves in a serious position, faced with the necessity to curtail the activities of various Standing Committees of the academy and the library, by cutting ruthlessly their requested budgets for 1940, which must entail the loss of competent, well-trained employees of long standing.

I am not in any way exaggerating the dilemma in which we find ourselves. Be assured, we are going to carry on, carry on with all the enthusiasm which the various Standing Committees and their staffs have shown in the past, in spite of these handicaps. We are not planning at the present time to abolish any Standing Committee, and we hope this will never become necessary.

I think I have made it perfectly plain that, if the academy is to go on with its service to the public, we shall have to have more endowment. During the last two or three years a very hard-working Fund-Raising Committee has managed to raise funds sufficient to help carry the burden. It has not been possible, however, to add most of the funds thus raised to endowment; they have in large measure been paid out of current expenses. This is a hand-to-mouth existence which can not be permitted to go on. We shall need additional endowment, if we are to continue to accept our responsibilities as we have in the past, and if we are to continue to develop our capacity for public service in normal fashion.

#### SYMPOSIUM OF THE SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

A SYMPOSIUM on "Development and Growth" was held at North Truro, Mass., in August, 1939. Experts from a variety of fields gathered there for mutual exchange of views and joint discussion of topics of

common interest. Representatives of the fields of agriculture, bacteriology, biochemistry, biophysics, botany, cytology, embryology, endocrinology, genetics, histology, mathematics, pathology, philosophy, physiology and zoology concentrated on a single focal issue. Correlation of facts and integration of concepts relating to development were thus promoted.

The success of this concerted effort at synthesis was so tangible that the group, as assembled at the meeting, decided to constitute a permanent body with the aim to rally for joint discussion and closer cooperation all those interested in development and growth, primarily by holding annual symposia of wide scope. Thus, a "Society for (the Study of) Development and Growth" was founded. An organizing committee was elected, which at present consists of Drs. Warren H. Lewis, *chairman*; Paul Weiss, *secretary*; Leigh Hoadley, *treasurer*; N. J. Berrill, Philip R. White, E. W. Sinnott, *members*.

The committee has made arrangements for the next symposium to be held from June 20 to 26 at Salsbury Cove, Maine, with the following program (a half day reserved for each topic):

Thursday morning, "Structure of Protoplasm."

Thursday afternoon, "Synthesis of Protoplasm."

Friday morning, "Colloid Chemistry of Development and Growth."

Friday afternoon, "Chemical Factors of Growth."

Saturday morning, "Physical Factors of Growth."

Monday morning, "Cell Division in Relation to Development."

Monday afternoon, "Size-controlling Factors."

Tuesday morning, "Pathology of Development."

Tuesday afternoon, "Theories of Organization."

On that occasion, further details concerning the organization and scope of the society will be considered. Membership is open to all interested in the synthesis of all studies and knowledge bearing on development in the widest sense. Annual dues have been tentatively fixed at \$1; in addition, there will be a registration fee of \$1 for those attending the symposium. Those wishing to join the society are asked to communicate with Dr. Paul Weiss, department of zoology, University of Chicago, Chicago.

#### RESEARCH CONFERENCES ON CHEMISTRY AT GIBSON ISLAND

THE Section on Chemistry of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will again sponsor a series of research conferences this summer to be held at Gibson Island, Maryland, under the direction of Neil E. Gordon, secretary of the section. The schedule thus far arranged is as follows:

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Week of</i>
Dr. C. R. Wagner	"Frontiers in Petroleum Chemistry"	June 17