

OBITUARY

JAMES TROOP

JAMES TROOP, one of America's earliest teachers of entomology, died at the home of his daughter in Urbana, Illinois, on October 14, at the age of 88 years, just three months after the death of his wife at Lafayette, Indiana, his home for 57 years.

Professor Troop was born on March 14, 1853, at Bennington, New York. He graduated from Michigan Agricultural College in 1878, where he was an associate of such notable scientists as Clarence P. Gillette and Liberty Hyde Bailey. The next year he spent in doing post-graduate work at Cornell University and the winter following in study at Harvard. In 1880 Professor Troop returned to Michigan Agricultural College to become a member of the horticultural staff, and received his master of science degree there in 1882.

Troop came to Purdue University in the fall of 1884, retaining his connection with this institution to the day of his death, more than fifty-seven years. When he came to Purdue as head of the department of horticulture and entomology, there was only one other teacher on the agricultural faculty. In addition to entomology and horticulture, he taught forestry, botany and veterinary science. After 28 years as head of horticulture and entomology, the combined department was divided and Troop took over the headship of the entomology department, which he held until 1920, when he became professor emeritus.

From 1899 to 1907 Troop was state entomologist of Indiana, in which position he had charge of regulatory work, including nursery inspection. From 1896 to 1901 he was secretary of the Indiana Horticultural Society, of which he was president in 1933.

Because Professor Troop was a pioneer in the field of horticulture and to a large degree responsible for the development of this industry in Indiana, he was affectionately known as the "Grand Old Man of Indiana Horticulture." Many of the achievements in this field in Indiana may be attributed to his foresightedness and pioneer work.

As a teacher Troop was outstanding, as evidenced by the facts remembered and fond recollections expressed by his many former students.

Aside from his official duties with Purdue University, Professor Troop was active for many years in university and community affairs. He was a charter member of the Purdue Chapters of Alpha Zeta, and Acacia fraternity. He was past commander of the Lafayette Commandery of Knights Templars, of which he was also prelate for thirty-three years. He was active in church circles, being superintendent of the Baptist Church Sunday School and deacon of the same church for many years.

Professor Troop is survived by a daughter Helen, wife of Professor O. H. Sears, of the University of Illinois, and two grandchildren, Marjorie and Gordon Sears.

J. J. DAVIS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

NORMAN JACKSON HARRAR

January 7, 1902–October 16, 1941

ON October 16, 1941, Dr. Norman Jackson Harrar, chairman of the Chemistry Department of Franklin College, at Franklin College, died of pneumonia. Sulpho-compounds and blood transfusions offered by his students failed to bring about recovery, probably because of his poor health of several years standing.

Harrar was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 1902, and had his early education in that state. Completing his undergraduate studies, he was awarded the B.S. degree with a major in chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in 1922. Shortly thereafter he went to Colorado and from 1924 to 1927 served as an instructor in chemistry at the Colorado State College in Fort Collins. The year 1927–28, he served as an assistant in chemistry at Pennsylvania State College and was awarded the M.S. degree. Returning West that fall, he served as an assistant in chemistry at the University of Colorado until 1930, at which time he was awarded the Ph.D. degree. During the following two years he was an assistant professor of chemistry at Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia; since 1932 he has served as professor and head of the chemistry department at Franklin College. In 1935 he was chairman of the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society and in 1937 was chosen as a councilor representing the Indiana Section in the national organization. Following the lead of professional chemists in Pennsylvania, the executive committee of the Indiana Section studied the need of an incorporated organization of the chemists of the state. As a result of this study, the "Indiana Chemical Society" was incorporated in 1939 and Harrar was chosen as its first president. As stated in the constitution, the purpose of the society is "to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner the advancement of chemistry as a science and as a profession in the state of Indiana, especially in fostering public welfare and education in matters involving chemistry in all its branches and its applications, aiding the development of industry and promoting the health, happiness, and prosperity of the people of the State of Indiana."

Although Dr. Harrar's principal interests were centered in his teaching, he, nevertheless, kept up an

active interest in research, having published a number of papers on the iron cycle in nature dealing with the effect of humic acids on the naturally occurring oxides of iron. He was also interested in studies dealing with salt craving in animals and in arsenic tolerance. Historical studies in the field of chemistry were of most immediate interest to him as evidenced by the publication of a historical paper on "Sulfur from Popocatepetl," and an unfinished manuscript on the history of chemistry. He was a member of the chemical professional society of Alpha Chi Sigma and of Sigma Xi. At the time of his death, he was serving as the coach of the college golf team.

Dr. Harrar is survived by his wife and two sons by a former marriage. In his death science has lost a man of rare ability and a charming personality.

FRANK E. E. GERMANN

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

RECENT DEATHS

DR. WALTHER NERNST, formerly professor of physical chemistry and director of the Physico-Chemical Institute of the University of Berlin, Nobel laureate in 1920, died on November 18 at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. KURT KOFFKA, William Allan Neilson professor of experimental psychology at Smith College, previously from 1911 to 1918 professor of psychology at the University of Giessen, died on November 21. He was fifty-five years old.

MAJOR EDWIN CLARENCE ECKEL, since 1933 chief geologist of the Tennessee Valley Authority, died on November 22 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. MAX KRISS, associate professor of animal nutrition at the Pennsylvania State College, with which he had been associated since 1918, died on November 16 at the age of fifty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE THAILAND DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

THE ninth biennial report of the Thailand Department of Science, which is summarized in the *Journal* of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of the Commonwealth of Australia, describes a great increase in the activities of the department. One form of expansion is the addition of a Division of Pharmacy to the Divisions of Chemistry, Agricultural Science and Industrial Chemistry, already in existence. The new division will undertake research into indigenous drugs and the manufacture of certain galenical preparations, and it will examine and standardize drugs and biological preparations imported into, or manufactured in, Thailand. The division is housed in a modern two-storied building containing offices, balance rooms and six laboratories.

The Division of Industrial Chemistry, formerly known as the Division of Technology, was exclusively devoted to the manufacture of Vitamin B₁ extract and drugs for the treatment of leprosy; the Vitamin B₁ extract is obtained from rice bran, and 1,600 litres of it were prepared during the two years under review. A Ceramics Section has now been incorporated in this division, and the workshop attached to the division has been considerably enlarged so that it is able to construct much of the apparatus previously imported or manufactured outside the department. The Division of Agricultural Science is largely engaged on soil surveys and analyses, but it also analyzed various foods and animal fodders, and investigated the fertilizing values of bat and swallow guano. The Division of Chemistry carries out large numbers

of routine assays of opium dross submitted by the Excise and Opium Department, and of bronze for coinage, submitted by the Treasury Department. It also has a Water Analysis Section which is growing in magnitude each year as water works are being started in most of the important towns of the kingdom.

The production of solar salt and the production and utilization of soya beans are two important problems that have been investigated by committees set up by the Department of Science. Analyses of Thai soya beans show that their nutritional value is comparable to the Manchurian species.

During 1936-38, six officers of the department were sent abroad to gain experience, principally in the fields of pharmaceutical chemistry, spectrography, ceramics and petroleum refining.

GRANTS MADE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

FOURTEEN grants were made to the University of Illinois during April and May, ranging from \$300 to \$6,250, and amounting in all to \$21,170. They are as follows:

John and Mary R. Markle Foundation, New York City, \$6,250 to support Dr. Ernst Gellhorn's investigation of the physiological foundations of convulsions and of the treatment of dementia praecox, in the College of Medicine.

Nutrition Research Laboratories, Chicago, \$3,900 to continue the research program being carried on in the department of physiology in the College of Medicine under the supervision of Dr. C. I. Reed.