

Spanish-American countries. One of the most mature results of these studies is her book on Mitla, a Mexican town in which ancient attitudes and Spanish influences are blended in a remarkable way. Her very last investigation, which she had just completed, bears on the same subject as expressed among the Indians of Ecuador.

Her two-volume work, "Pueblo Indian Religion," published in 1939, contains a summary of practically all we know about Pueblo religion and is an indispensable source book for every student of Indian life. Besides the results of her own investigations it contains a critical summary of the vast literature related to this subject.

It is impossible to do justice to all her writings, every one of which shows her painstaking desire for accuracy and furnished new materials for her own studies and for those of others. Her own investigations extended not only over the Pueblos, Mexico and recently also South America, but she also collected among American Negroes in the United States as well as in the Bahamas, Haiti, the Lesser Antilles Islands, among the Portuguese in New England and many Indian tribes of the Plains.

The importance of her work should not be judged alone by the quantity of reliable and carefully digested material but even more so by the uses to which she put the results of her investigations. She was one of those whose scientific insight shapes their life. Conscious through her studies of the far-reaching influence of tradition, she was averse to the ardent spirit that would throw aside the past and rebuild society on theoretical grounds; an enemy of all catch phrases that beguile us and skeptical of the beautiful words that promise a better future, but that are not liable to be kept by those who glibly pronounce them, not as she believed on account of their bad faith, but because freedom of the mind and willingness to forego old accustomed prejudice must be attained before we can hope for a better future.

In Elsie Clews Parsons we have lost not only an unusually productive and painstaking scholar but also a woman who used her great opportunities wholeheartedly in furthering the science in which she was interested. She followed the work of the younger students with keen interest, and wherever it was in her power

she helped them unstintingly to carry on their work, both with material means and with sound advice, without expecting any return except opportunity well used. Social science in all parts of the country owes her an unmeasurable gratitude. It is not saying too much to claim that the successful work of the American Folk-Lore Society could not have been done without the energy and time that she put into it.

She was in every way a power for good in our society. She will be sorely missed by all her friends, and her death is a loss to the nation.

FRANZ BOAS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. HARRY WARD FOOTE, professor of physical chemistry at Yale University, a member of the faculty for the past forty-two years, died on January 14 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ALFRED SIMPSON TAYLOR, professor of clinical surgery in the department of neurology of Cornell University Medical College, died on January 16 at the age of seventy-three years.

PAUL GOODWIN REDINGTON, forest supervisor of the U. S. Forest Service, formerly chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, died on January 12. He was sixty-three years old.

CHARLES ANDREW McCUE, dean of the School of Agriculture, formerly professor of horticulture of the University of Delaware, died on January 12 in his sixty-third year.

PROFESSOR ÉMILE PICARD, permanent secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences and a distinguished mathematician, died on December 12, aged eighty-five years.

THE centenary of the birth of William James was observed at the University of Wisconsin on January 12 and 13 by a meeting at which 600 philosophers and students of philosophy were present. Among the speakers were: Dr. J. Seelye Bixler, of Harvard University; Dr. Boyd H. Bode, of the Ohio State University; Dr. Max Otto, of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Dickinson S. Miller, formerly of Columbia University. A paper by Dr. John Dewey, who is spending the winter in Florida, was read.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ADJUSTMENTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

AN official statement has been issued by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announcing that it does not plan to adopt the extreme "speed-up" plan

which many colleges have adopted as a war emergency measure. The Corporation approved on January 9 a faculty recommendation to this effect. After careful analysis it has been decided that adoption of the "speed-up" plan would weaken rather than strengthen the total contributions of the institute to the war