

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

effort, and would retard rather than expedite effective service by its students. This decision was arrived at after wide discussion with Army, Navy and industrial officers who are thoroughly aware of the urgent need for well-trained engineers and scientists.

In discussing this decision President Karl T. Compton pointed out that the principal objection to the "speed-up" plan which contemplates continuous concentrated college study, summer and winter after secondary school graduation, is that the additional yield would consist at the most of only about twelve thousand engineering graduates in the entire country, no difference for how many years the "speed-up" program is continued, and this gain would be offset by their inferior training and by necessary curtailment of the special emergency training courses through which the engineering colleges are now turning out technical specialists in much larger numbers than they are graduating regular students.

The need for well-trained engineers and scientists is recognized by the Selective Service Administration, which recommends that students in these fields, who give evidence of professional promise, be permitted to complete their academic programs. Similarly Britain has been forced, through the technical requirements of the war, to place scientists and engineers in special categories—even to the extent of forbidding their engagement in the war effort outside the field of their professional competence.

Though not favoring the extreme "speed-up" plan, the faculty of the institute voted to accelerate the program for this year's senior class to permit graduation on April 27, and has authorized substitution of special study and training in subjects important for the war effort in place of certain professional and non-professional requirements of the normal curriculum.

#### THE FINLAY INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, at a meeting on January 6 at the Medical School of the University of Havana, it was decided to establish "The Finlay Institute of the Americas to encourage research and education in the field of tropical disease and to provide for an increased interchange of medical students and teachers among scientific medical institutions in all the American nations." Officers were elected as follows: Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, president of the executive council; Dr. James E. Paullin, president-elect of the American College of Surgeons, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the United States. Members of the executive council include: Dr. Thomas Mackie, president of the American Society of Tropical Disease; Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association; Dr. Edgar Mayer,

associate professor of medicine at Cornell University and the University of Havana; Dr. Enrique Saladrigas, director of the Finlay Institute of the University of Havana; Dr. Rafael Menocal, professor of surgery at the University of Havana, and Dr. Felix Hurtado, assistant minister of public health of Cuba. During the course of the negotiations for the establishment of the institute Mr. O'Connor presented to President Batista of Cuba and to the minister of public health, Dr. Marruz, messages from President Roosevelt and Vice-President Henry Wallace, indicating their approval of the project to foster more intense cooperation between scientific institutions of the Latin American countries. Donald Nelson, who accompanied the party to Cuba, also conferred with President Batista.

The *Journal* reports that during the course of the negotiations, the University of Havana and the medical school of the university provided receptions by their faculties, and addresses were made by the American visitors and also by leading Cuban officials. Representatives of the Cuban Federation of Medicine also presented to the American delegation an offer of complete cooperation in the campaign for medical service in the war. The order of Carlos Finlay was conferred on the American visitors by President Batista.

A constitution and by-laws are being prepared for the conduct of the institute. Executive offices will be established both in Havana and in New York. The Cuban Government has agreed to provide \$20,000 annually for maintenance of the organization. Substantial contributions were made by several American industrialists and philanthropists.

#### THE GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Genetics Society of America, at its annual business meeting held in Dallas, Texas, on December 30, announced the election of Professor E. W. Lindstrom as president for 1942 and Professor Marcus M. Rhoades as vice-president.

The members assembled at this meeting also adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the growing burden of national defense makes it desirable and necessary for the Federal Government to practice utmost economy with regard to all non-essential expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The continuity of fundamental research, which now has been destroyed by war in almost all parts of the world, is probably the most important investment that can at present be made for the benefit of the post-war period; and

WHEREAS, It is to be hoped that the strength of the American form of government will be demonstrated by preserving the continuity of research work in this country;

Therefore, Be it resolved by the Genetics Society of