

University of Pittsburgh he received the honorary degree Sc.D. in 1930. He was a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (President, 1912); American Association for the Advancement of Science (vice-president, Section D, Astronomy, 1924); American Astronomical Society (vice-president, 1926); *Astronomische Gesellschaft*; National Academy of Sciences; American Philosophical Society; Research Club (University of Michigan); foreign associate, Royal Astronomical Society; International Union; member of Commission 13 of solar eclipses; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Xi; Phi Kappa Phi.

He taught Greek and Latin at Napa College from 1894 to 1896, and was professor of mathematics and astronomy at the College of the Pacific from 1896 to 1900. As a teacher and public lecturer he was unexcelled. He had the faculty of presenting astronomy to the beginner or to the layman in such a way as to display the facts and instil the spirit of the science. After two years as Vanderbilt fellow at the University of Virginia he joined the staff of the Lick Observatory in 1902, rising to the rank of astronomer in 1911, a position which he left to become director of the Allegheny Observatory in 1920. His stay at Lick was interrupted in 1906 when he went to Santiago, Chile, in charge of the Lick Southern Observatory, from which station he returned in 1910 to take charge of the Crossley Reflector. His engineering ability was used here in providing convenient controls and working conditions for this erstwhile troublesome instrument. In 1917 he joined the optics section of the National Bureau of Standards, and worked at the design of military instruments, returning to Lick when hostilities ceased.

Beginning in 1920, Curtis spent a happy decade at the Allegheny Observatory. Here, besides doing his share of observing, he designed and constructed several instruments whose use has simplified and improved observation. He took great enjoyment in this work, at which he was unusually skilful. In fact, the planning and building of new instruments for eclipse work was perhaps the most enjoyable feature of the five expeditions which he accompanied or led in the Allegheny decade. Wherever he was located, Curtis always found opportunity to improve the equipment, often by his own handiwork.

In 1930 Michigan sought a man to design a new telescope and called Curtis to the directorate of the University Observatory. The proposed large reflector did not materialize, but a development of far greater promise grew under his guidance in this last decade. And this was possible because Curtis not only knew science and mechanics, but understood men and was able properly to estimate their potentialities and direct their abilities. The solar work of the Me-

Math-Hulbert Observatory is in a very true sense a monument to such understanding and encouragement. His friendly disposition and constant desire to be helpful not only accomplished much for science but made him beloved by all his associates.

The few philosophical papers presented by Curtis have a value which is large in comparison with the number of pages written. Curtis published about 120 papers dealing with scientific subjects and 20 of a more general nature. Many of these are of prime importance, but they imply, rather than record, his value to science, which resided rather in his helpfulness to his associates through counsel and encouragement.

The passing on January 9, 1942, of this scientist, teacher and counsellor created an unusual feeling of loss and sorrow. Dr. Curtis is survived by his wife, Mary D. Curtis; by a daughter, Mrs. A. J. Walters; by three sons, Rowen D., Alan B. and Baldwin R.; and by five grandsons. To these the world of science expresses deep sympathy.

KEVIN BURNS

#### DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. SOMA WEISS, Hersey professor of the theory and practice of physic at Harvard Medical School and physician in charge of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, died on January 31, at the age of forty-three years.

BION J. ARNOLD, consulting engineer, died on January 29, at the age of eighty years. Mr. Arnold had been a mechanical engineer for the Chicago and Great Western Railway, a consulting engineer for the General Electric Company and an advisory traction engineer for the cities of Pittsburgh, Toronto, Chicago, Providence, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and San Francisco.

DR. FRANK SMITH, professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Illinois, died on February 3, at the age of eighty-five years.

CLIFFORD C. GLOVER, professor of pharmacognosy of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Michigan, died on January 31, at the age of fifty-four years.

DR. MARTHA BREWER LYON, member of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology, South Bend, Indiana, died on January 18, at the age of seventy years.

CAPTAIN THOMAS ATHOL JOYCE, formerly deputy keeper in charge of the Sub-Department of Ethnography, department of oriental antiquities and ethnography, in the British Museum, and president of the Anthropological Institute from 1931 to 1933, died on January 3, at the age of sixty-four years.

THE Gray Herbarium of Harvard University is completing, through a special gift, an addition to its building to be called the Benjamin L. Robinson Wing in memory of Professor Robinson, formerly curator of the herbarium. The plans for the equipment of this wing contemplate an additional expenditure of \$35,000. Professor Robinson died on July 27, 1935.

As a memorial to Professor E. P. Kohler, professor of chemistry at Bryn Mawr College until 1912 and, at the time of his death in May, 1938, Sheldon Emery professor of organic chemistry at Harvard University, a fellowship for graduate study in chemistry has been endowed through contributions of his students and friends. The announcement says: "The special purpose of the fellowship is to perpetuate the

memory of a man distinguished by his eminence as a scientific man and beloved as a teacher of rare qualities who exerted a profound and wide-spread influence on the progress of instruction in chemistry throughout the country."

A MEMORIAL service for Professor Frances Gertrude Wick, chairman of the department of physics and a member for thirty years of the faculty of Vassar College, was held in the college chapel on January 21. Professor Louise S. McDowell, chairman of the department of physics at Wellesley College, gave the principal address. Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of the college, spoke on behalf of the faculty, and Louise Grosvenor, of New York, a junior majoring in physics, on behalf of the students.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE FIFTH GENERAL HOSPITAL (HARVARD UNIVERSITY UNIT), U. S. ARMY<sup>1</sup>

At 9:00 A.M. on January 10 the U. S. Army Fifth General Hospital (Harvard University Unit), the successor to Base Hospital No. 5 of 1917-19, left Boston for an eastern seaboard camp as the first step to active duty in this war. This represents a further contribution of Harvard University to National Defense. Harvard University has already established in England an American Red Cross-Harvard Hospital, directed by Dr. John E. Gordon, professor of preventive medicine and epidemiology, which for some months has been actively engaged in aiding the British in the care and study of communicable diseases.

The former Base Hospital No. 5 was presided over by the late Dr. Harvey Cushing and had an enviable record. Many of its officers rose to positions of importance in the Army. The hospital suffered the first American casualties, when it was bombed the night of September 5, 1917.

Now after a twenty-year interval a new group undertakes a similar effort. For historical purposes the following should be recorded. On November 16, 1939, the Surgeon General of the United States Army wrote Dean Burwell of the Medical School that shortly he would approach the Medical School with an official request that it organize a regular Army inactive unit, General Hospital No. 5, "thus perpetuating the fine traditions of United States Army Base Hospital No. 5." Similar units were proposed for all medical schools and hospitals which had served in a like capacity in the War of 1914-1918. These units were to have a normal bed capacity of 1,000 and a personnel which would include 42 officers, 120 nurses and 400

enlisted men. Subsequently the number of officers was raised to 73, including the administrative service.

The office of Unit Director was assigned to the author, and immediately steps were taken to secure the officer personnel, which according to instructions should be limited to members of the parent institution. Members of the teaching force of the Medical School, whether working in the laboratories of the school or attached to one of the affiliated hospitals, were eligible. The heads of all departments in the school were consulted as to what men in their department either cared to join or, in the opinion of the head of the department, should not join because of essential duties here. A definite attempt was made to spread the personnel as widely as possible. Because of the ramifications of the university, we were able to call upon individuals from all the major Boston hospitals as well as from the Hygiene Department in Cambridge. Thomas H. Lanman, '12, M.D., '16, assistant professor of surgery, and Theodore L. Badger, M.D., '26, instructor in medicine, were early selected as the respective chiefs of the Surgical and Medical Divisions. Their continued labors and unflagging interest have greatly facilitated the formation of the present unit.

On December 24, 1941, a telephone call from the Surgeon General's office warned the unit that it would have only a few days to prepare for active duty. Immediately final physical examinations, the purchase of equipment and the addition of the nurses and the new officers were undertaken. The necessary prophylactic inoculations were started. Boston stores were called on to supply uniforms, the style, quality and types of these being added to each day. A hurried trip to Washington by the acting director expedited these matters.

Generous friends donated money for a Fifth Gen-

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted by special permission of the *Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin*, January, 1942, issue.