Rendich's logic may point in the right direction, since the stress of successful activity could well accentuate the physicians' already strong tendency to die of degenerative disease; his facts, however, are inadequate to establish the point. A more complete investigation of the subject brings out some rather striking information.

In Table 1 are given the mean ages at death of physicians awarded, respectively, 2, 3–5, 6–10, 11–15, 16–20 and 21 or more lines in the "Death Notices" columns of the *Journal*. Two hundred cases in each group were considered adequate to give a stable mean, but this number could not be obtained for the two upper classes without going back more than five years; use of older death lists was considered inadvisable because of sharp changes in certain disease mortalities—such, for instance, as has followed introduction of the newer forms of chemotherapy.

TABLE 1

DEATH AGE OF PHYSICIANS ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF PROMINENCE

Number of lines in death column notices	Number of cases	Mean age at death years
2	200	71.2750 ± 0.5134
3– 5	200	67.1750 ± 0.5875
6–10	200	65.2250 ± 0.5384
11–15	200	65.9250 ± 0.5096
16–20	100	68.0000 ± 0.6643
21+	136	70.5885 ± 0.5520

Here is evident a very definite and statistically significant trend in death age according to degree of prominence attained. Those whose deaths received bare mention lived to the greatest age but were closely followed by those whose achievements gained wide attention. Those achieving only mediocre success seemed to pay the highest price in terms of an earlier death age. The difference between the mean death ages of those with 2 lines and those with 6–10 lines is 6.0500 ± 0.7439 years; this difference is 8.1 times its own probable error and would almost never occur by chance alone (only once in 100,000,000 times, more or less). Likewise, the difference in death age between those with 6–10 lines and those with 21+ lines (5.3635 ± 0.7711 years) is 7 times its own probable error and would occur by chance only once in about 500,000 times. The differences between the 6–10 and the 11–15 line groups and between the 2 and the 21+ line groups are only of the same order as their own probable errors and hence are without significance.

Interesting speculation may well be given to these observed differences in the mean life span. Do the really great live longer and achieve more because of a greater vitality and working capacity, or do they reach a higher plane of success as a result of their added years of effort? Since most great physicians have already made a name for themselves in the medical world by the time they are 50 years old, it seems likely that a high vitality of brain and body is the responsible factor. At any rate, the great seem not so inclined to die young or break down in the struggle as are the somewhat less successful; instead, their heritage appears more likely to be a ripe old age. This is indeed fortunate for society, for their great intrinsic capability is thus seasoned by a longer lifetime of experience and observation; these are the men whose counsel becomes increasingly valuable with advancing age.

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CORRECTION

THE 1942 U.S.D.A. Yearbook, "Keeping Livestock Healthy," page 1096, fails to give proper credit to the research workers responsible for the experimental production of goiter in poultry. This was first accomplished in 1938 by A. R. Patton, H. S. Wilgus, Jr., and G. S. Harshfield (SCIENCE, 89: 162, 1939).

A. R. PATTON
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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE ETHNOGEOGRAPHIC BOARD

As a means of integrating certain types of federal and non-federal research, there has been established in Washington an Ethnogeographic Board under the joint sponsorship of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, the National Research Council and the Smithsonian Institution.

The Ethnogeographic Board is an extra-governmental agency concerned with war and post-war problems in the field of ethnogeography, the study of human and natural resources of world areas, particularly with communities and cultural regions outside the continental United States. Its function is that of a useful clearing house between the sponsoring institutions, with their numerous affiliated scientific and educational organizations outside of Washington and the war agencies within the Government. The board functions in cooperation with the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of the "three Councils"; the Smithsonian War Committee, the Intensive Language Program of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Committees on the Anthropology of

Oceania and Africa of the National Research Council and related organizations.

The offices of the board are in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Tenth and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D. C. (Telephones: District 1667; National 1810, extension 7).

The purposes of the Ethnogeographic Board are twofold: first, and most immediate, through the office of its director, to make readily accessible to Washington military and war agencies such specific regional information and evaluated personnel data as is available to the sponsoring institutions and numerous other governmental and outside scientific organizations with which they are affiliated or in contact; and second, with an eye to future needs, to encourage the promulgation through these institutions and outside agencies of more extensive research projects along the lines of applicable social science, linguistics and human geography. The Ethnogeographic Board, because of its regional approach to human problems in the geographic, biological and social sciences, is interdisciplinary in scope. Because of its close association with the four sponsoring organizations and, through them, with their affiliated scientific and professional societies and the universities, it possesses unusual facilities for locating the most competent authorities upon specific subjects, and for recommending the inauguration by research organizations outside of the government of broader studies, which have a direct bearing upon governmental war and post-war needs.

Since the opening of its offices in June, the Ethnogeographic Board has made progress toward accomplishing these purposes. Personnel lists of world areas of strategic importance have been placed in the hands of offices and individuals charged with the prosecution of the war. Information of interest to these offices has been secured from competent individuals and placed in the official channels of greatest usefulness. Moreover, many scientists, professional men and world travelers visiting Washington have made it a practice to see that the board is in possession of data regarding their field experience and special capabilities. Others who know that their names do not appear in any of the available lists are encouraged to correspond with the director.

In response to other requests from the military agencies, the Ethnogeographic Board has arranged for special research projects by university departments in the fields of human biology, culture and geography. The further cooperation of universiites, scientific and professional societies, committees and university departments in these fields is requested. The board offers special facilities for the prompt transmission of useful information and research potentialities to the military, war agencies and other departments of the government which are directly concerned with the vast social, economic and political changes now in accelerated progress in all parts of the world.

The membership of the board, which serves as a policy-forming and advisory body to the director, was chosen jointly by the four sponsoring institutions. The members were designated as representatives of varied important human disciplines, on the basis of their familiarity with one or more geographical regions and their experience and associations. In addition, the executive officers of the sponsoring institutions act as advisers to the director in Washington. Other individuals in close contact with the work of the board may be elected consultants. As the need arises additional members of the Ethnogeographic Board may be appointed. The present members are Carl E. Guthe, *Chairman,* University of Michigan; Wendell C. Bennett, Yale University; Carter Goodrich, Columbia University; John E. Graf, U. S. National Museum; Robert B. Hall, University of Michigan, and Wilbur A. Sawyer, Rockefeller Foundation.

WILLIAM DUNCAN STRONG
ETHNOGEOGRAPHIC BOARD

LOCATION OF NEW AND RARE INSTRUMENTS

THE Committee on Location of New and Rare Instruments has the following offers and requests:

Instruments Offered

Curie Electrometer (Paris make)
Loewe-Zeiss Liquid Interferometer
L. & N. Portable Potentiometer (No. 7655) with 2 quinhydrone and 1 calomel electrodes
Microammeter, D'Arsonval Type (Model S of Sensitive Research Instrument Corp.). Rental only
Quartz Microscope
Siemens & Halske Optical Pyrometer
Two-circle Reflecting Goniometer (several).
Welch D.C. Volt-Ammeter (0–150v. 0–15a.)
Westinghouse 4-unit moving coil Type PA Oscillograph with three galvanometers
Weston Galvanometer (#375)
Weston Galvanometer (#440)
Weston Voltmeter (#280)

Instruments Needed

Coleman Spectrophotometer (10 requests)
Grating Spectrograph (9 requests)
Leitz Ultrapak or equivalent
Quartz Spectrograph
Zeiss Optimeter
Zeiss Pulfrich Refractometer (8 requests).

Information concerning these offers and requests for rare instruments that can be sold, loaned or leased for essential war or other research can be obtained from the undersigned.

D. H. KILLEFFER,
Chairman of the Committee

60 EAST 42D ST.,
NEW YORK, N. Y.