

Daniel's experience in university administration began long before he became head of the department of zoology. He rendered noteworthy service as chairman of some of the important faculty committees such as the committee on budget and inter-departmental relations and the library committee. In the opinion of the author, Dr. Daniel's most significant contribution as chairman of his department was his interest in and encouragement of young men and women of high scholarship. His graduate assistants were selected with exceeding care and their apprenticeship in teaching and development as scientists and scholars were carefully studied. To them he was personally devoted, far more, perhaps, than they will ever know. In his passing they have lost a friend and a counselor; he survives, however, a symbol and a creed.

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. FRANZ BOAS, professor emeritus of anthropology

of Columbia University, died on December 21 at the age of eighty-three years.

DR. FRANK DAWSON ADAMS, Logan professor of geology at McGill University from 1894 to 1931 and emeritus vice-principal of the university, died on December 26 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. JABEZ HENRY ELLIOTT, president of the American Association of the History of Medicine and professor of the history of medicine at the University of Toronto, died on December 18. He was sixty-nine years old.

DR. WILLIAM MARTIN BLANCHARD, professor of chemistry and dean emeritus of the DePauw University College of Liberal Arts, died on December 21. He was sixty-eight years old.

DR. HANS G. BEUTLER, research associate in physics at the University of Chicago, died on December 15 at the age of forty-six years. Dr. Beutler, who came to this country in 1936 from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry in Berlin, was a spectroscopist.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TERCENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF ISAAC NEWTON¹

WHEN the tercentenary of the birth of Sir Isaac Newton was celebrated by Fellows of the Royal Society, in the Royal Institution, in December, Sir Henry Dale, president of the society, announced the successful conclusion of negotiations to acquire and preserve the birthplace "of the greatest of our men of science." The Pilgrim Trust, he said, will be responsible for the sum required for the purchase, which the Lord of the Manor of Woolsthorpe (Lincolnshire) has agreed to at a price substantially less than its value.

Sir Henry Dale described how

in the hamlet of Woolsthorpe, near Colsterworth, on the Great North Road, some six miles south of Grantham, there is still a modest manor farmhouse, with a small orchard in front of it. Here the Newtons lived, simple yeoman farmers, and here, two months after his father had died, Isaac Newton was born, a puny, premature infant, on Christmas Day, 1642, 20 years before the Royal Society was incorporated by the grant of its first charter. The house stands but little altered since that day. The room in which Newton was born has a simple marble tablet on the wall, inscribed with Pope's well-known couplet.

But this house had importance in Newton's later life and in his work, and not only as his birthplace. It was here that he returned from his schooling at Grantham, at the age of 16, to take charge of the farm for his mother; and here, to the incalculable gain of science and the world, he showed such incompetence as a farmer that he

¹ The *Times*, London.

was sent back to school and thence to Cambridge. It was here, again, that he returned in the autumn of 1665, when the plague drove him from Cambridge; and here, during the following 18 months of quiet exile in the country, his early ripening genius grasped already the essential principles of his major theoretical discoveries. One can still see the upper chamber which he then used as a study; and in the little orchard there is an old, recumbent apple tree which, one will be told, is descended by direct grafting from that which Newton saw.

The land which Newton's family farmed was rapidly being laid waste by quarrying for iron-stone and soon there would have been little left unspoiled save the orchard and garden round the house. The Royal Society felt that something should be done to preserve for posterity a house and garden which carried such momentous memories, and which had meant so much for science. Accordingly a small committee was formed, in which Sir John Russell and Sir James Jeans joined with the officers of the society to negotiate with the lord of the manor, Major E. B. Turnor, of Ponton Hall, near Grantham, in order to put this tiny but historic property for as long as possible beyond the risk of damage or decay.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

DR. THOMAS MIDGLEY, JR., vice-president of the Ethyl Corporation, known for his discovery of tetraethyl lead which has made possible dramatic advances