the sun. Yes, Copernicus showed tact when he dedicated his great treatise to Pope Paul III and pleaded that he also be given the freedom of scientific inquiry—to follow the truth wherever it may lead. In paying tribute to Copernicus of four hundred years ago, the scientific word of to-day reaffirms its own faith in the dignity of free scientific inquiry, which has practically always been the transatlantic American charter. Why do we stop to honor Copernicus to-day? Because his words of courage and his message to the contemporary scientific world are as modern as to-morrow.

But Copernicus was more than a scientist. He was a churchman, a painter and a poet, a physician, an economist, a statesman and a soldier. He was not fully ordained a priest as some people erroneously believe; he had only minor orders. In the church hierarchy he was a canon, charged with the duty of administering church property in the duchy-bishopric of Varmia, the then Polish province but after the first partition of Poland in 1772 incorporated in East Prussia. In his varied career he painted his own portrait. The original, unfortunately, has not been preserved. We know it only from the copy that was produced in the sixteenth century and later reproduced on the astronomical clock tower of the Cathedral of Strasbourg. His first published book, in 1509, revealed him as a poet and incipient man of letters. It was a translation of the epistles of a secondary Greek writer, Theophylact. As a physician he would have made a much greater reputation than that of a poet if astronomy had not absorbed his interest in mature years. Such reputation concerning his medical profession as has come down to us has been clothed more in the garb of philanthropy rather than that of professional shrewdness. Although not infrequently called to the bedside of the influential and the affluent, including ruling princes, in his capacity as physician he is best known by his gratuitous ministrations to the poor. He was also an economist. Called by the Polish king, Sigismund I, to help reform the currency system in the northwestern Polish provinces, Copernicus formulated the monetary law of "good and bad money," which through historical error was ascribed to Gresham and the principle became known as Gresham's Law. Copernicus formulated this law at least 22 years before Sir Thomas Gresham.

And, among his multifarious activities, Copernicus was a statesman and once even a soldier. All his life he was an inveterate enemy of the Knights of the Teutonic Order, whose possessions—East Prussia, then Fief of Poland—surrounded the province of Varmia on three sides. This order, then headed by Albert of Hohenzollern, was the direct predecessor of the present widely heralded Teutonic New Order of Europe, introduced or revived by a formerly much-heard-of Austrian corporal. The former Teutonic Order knew all the tricks of fifth-column work; it tried to create dissensions and foment disorders in the neighboring Polish provinces. Several letters of complaint to the king of Poland, drawn up by the pen of Copernicus on behalf of the bishopric of Varmia, have come down to us. Without mincing words, Copernicus called them "thieves and robbers." While on his business visit to the city of Olsztyn (Allenstein), which was surrounded by armed forces of the Teutonic Order, Copernicus assumed the function of commander in chief.

And now, while the descendants of the Knights of the Teutonic Order have closed the University of Krakow, the alma mater of Copernicus, have imprisoned most of its professors and murdered others, and are trying to destroy all visible monuments of Polish culture, a tribute to Copernicus will give the still surviving Polish scholars and the gallant Polish nation courage to endure.

OBITUARY

HARRY HAMILTON LAUGHLIN

DR. HARRY HAMILTON LAUGHLIN, son of George Hamilton Laughlin, one-time president of Hiram College, was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1880. He was graduated Sc.D. from Princeton and was given an honorary M.D. degree by the University of Heidelberg. At the age of twenty years he was principal of the Kirksville (Mo.) high school and later teacher of agriculture at the North Missouri State Normal School. At the foundation of the Eugenics Record Office by Mrs. E. H. Harriman in 1910 he was put in immediate charge of its administration, until in 1921 it was incorporated in the Department of Genetics, with him as assistant director.

He early showed a special interest in the application of the principles of human heredity to human affairs. As an expert for the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House of Representatives he played an important part in securing the quota system of limited immigration into the United States from the Old World; and in 1923 he was sent by the Department of Labor to observe and advise concerning the operations of immigration selection in Europe. He was appointed a member of the Permanent Emigration Committee of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations. Later he worked especially on the topic of sterilization as a eugenical measure and published the stand-

ard book on the subject. His later years were devoted to a study of the inheritance of racing capacity in thoroughbreds—a trait in whose inheritance so many factors are involved that Laughlin was led to resort to mass analysis.

Laughlin was highly developed socially and made life-long friends through his interest in the people with whom he was associated.

At the outbreak of World War I he became captain of the local home defense reserve and gave military training of a quality that was acclaimed by army officers. He and Mrs. Laughlin were fond of entertaining at their house, and all the children of the neighborhood gathered there at Christmas time to meet him in the role of Santa Claus.

As an administrator he had unusual gifts and he was able to utilize effectively the work of a considerable number of assistants toward the accumulation and analysis of a very complicated mass of data. His thinking and writing were characterized by great perspicacity. His was a legal mind, and some of his drafts of bills for legislation were incorporated almost without change in the acts of state legislators. He was related to President James Madison.

Some of Laughlin's conclusions and their applications in legislation were opposed by those committed to a different social philosophy, founded on a less thorough analysis of facts. One can not but feel that a generation or two hence Laughlin's work, in helping bring about restricted immigration and thus the preservation of our country from the clash of opposing ideals and instincts found in the more diverse racial or geographical groups, will be the more widely appreciated as our population tends toward greater homogeneity.

CHAS. B. DAVENPORT

ROBERT GREENLEAF LEAVITT
(1865–1942)

DR. ROBERT GREENLEAF LEAVITT, well-known biologist and writer, died at North Parsonsfield, Maine, on October 2, 1942.

Dr. Leavitt was born at North Parsonsfield on September 28, 1865. He graduated from Worcester Academy in 1884 and from Harvard University in 1889. He was granted an A.M. from Harvard in 1898 and a Ph.D. in 1904.

He was science master at De Veaux College, 1890–91; head master at Concord Home School, Concord, Mass., 1891–93; instructor in physics at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Mass., 1893–97; investigator at Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Mass., 1899–1908; and head of the department of biology at the New Jersey State Normal School (now the New Jersey State Teachers College) at Trenton from September, 1908, until he retired in June, 1928. He was instructor in botany at the Summer School of Harvard University, 1903–07; and after his retirement continued his researches and his writing and maintained an active interest in everything connected with his field.

He was the author of "Outlines of Botany," which after forty years' use as a textbook is still regarded as an authority, "The Forest Trees of New England," a very popular tree book written for the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, numerous articles in general and educational magazines, and numerous technical papers and bulletins. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Leavitt possessed an unforgettable personality and a homely, original contagious wit which made him a delightful companion and in great demand as an after-dinner speaker and toastmaster. His genial and lovable nature won and held for him a multitude of friends.

His widow, two sons and a daughter survive him.

ROSCOE L. WEST
NEW JERSEY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE,
TRENTON

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILLIAM S. BAYLEY, who retired in 1931 from the professorship of geology at the University of Illinois, where he was head of the department, died on February 14 at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. ALBERT B. PECK, professor of mineralogy at the University of Michigan, a member of the faculty since 1914, died on February 15 at the age of fifty years.

DR. FRANKLIN P. JOHNSON, formerly professor of anatomy at the University of Missouri and since 1929 assistant professor of urology at the Medical School of the University of Oregon, died on February 12 at the age of fifty-five years.

MARTIN HALVOR KNUTSEN, professor of bacteriology at the Pennsylvania State College for the past twenty-three years, died on February 6 at the age of fifty-five years.

Nature reports the death of Dr. J. F. Craig, professor of veterinary pathology at the University of Liverpool; of Dr. Cyril Crossland, the first director of the Marine Biological Station at Ghardaqa, Gulf of Suez, on January 7, aged sixty-four years; of Lord Hirst, honorary member of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, chairman of the General Electric Company, on January 23, aged seventy-nine years; of Dr. Alexander Russell, F.R.S., formerly principal of Faraday House, London, on January 14, aged eighty-one years; of Professor J. Strohl, professor