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

of zoology and comparative anatomy at the University of Zurich, and of Professor A. K. Cajander, formerly professor of forestry in the University of Helsinki and director-general of the State Board of Forestry in Finland, Prime Minister of Finland from 1922 to 1924 and from 1938 to 1939, on January 21, aged sixty-three years.

THE New York Academy of Medicine, in cooperation with the State Department of Health, the City Department of Health and six of the leading voluntary organizations in the fields of maternal welfare and child health, celebrated on February 19 the one-hundredth anniversary of the publication by Oliver Wendell Holmes of his paper entitled "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever." In connection with this celebration a full day's program of conferences and discussions was held. The principal speakers at the evening meeting were Dr. Reginald Fitz, of Boston, and Dr. Benjamin P. Watson, director of the Sloane Hospital for Women, New York.

Nature reports that to commemorate the birth, on March 3, 1843, of the distinguished metallurgist, Sir William Chandler Roberts-Austen, the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Iron and Steel Institute and the Institute of Metals have arranged a lecture on his life and work, to be given by Dr. S. W. Smith.

THE section of historical and cultural medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine sponsored a Vesalius Celebration on January 13 to honor the quadricentenary of the publication of "De Humani Corporis Fabrica (1543)." The speakers were Drs. Arturo Castiglioni, Baltimore, on "Andreas Vesalius, Professor in the Medical School in Padua" and Henry E. Sigerist, of the Johns Hopkins University, on "The Position of Vesalius in the History of Medicine." There was an exhibit of books of Vesalius from the library of the academy.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the chancellor and president of the University of Toronto and members of the university staff recently accompanied Lady Banting to Mount Pleasant Cemetery to place a wreath on Sir Frederick's tomb. The occasion marked the fifty-first birthday anniversary of Sir Frederick, codiscoverer of insulin.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BRITISH COLONIAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH

THE Colonial Office has announced the appointment of a Colonial Products Research Council, with Lord Hankey as chairman. *The Times*, London, states that one of the functions of the Colonial Research Committee, which was set up last year under the chairmanship of Lord Hailey, was to review the whole field of research as it affects the Colonial Empire and to make recommendations for filling gaps in the existing organization for conducting such research. The new council fills one such gap.

Unlike the Colonial Research Committee, the council will be an executive body. It will consider what colonial raw materials may be made of value for the manufacture of intermediate and other products required by industry and it will initiate and supervise researches, both pure and applied, on such products, and generally consider how by the application of research greater use can be made of them.

In framing its program the council will have as its principal objective the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of Colonial peoples, and will endeavor also to increase the colonial contribution to the welfare and prosperity of the British Empire and of the world as a whole.

In carrying out its program, the council will cooperate with existing institutes, such as the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council and the Agricultural Research Council, to the greatest possible extent, and will "farm out" work to these and other bodies by arrangement; it will set up facilities of its own only for work which can not be done by other means. It will be appreciated of course that so long as the war continues, the investigations which the council will be able to undertake will necessarily be limited.

The council is composed as follows: Eric Barnard, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; G. L. M. Clauson, Colonial Office; Aneurin Davies; Dr. J. J. Fox, Government Chemist; Professor W. N. Haworth; Sir Harry Lindsay, director of the Imperial Institute; Sir Edward Mellanby, Medical Research Council; Professor Sir Robert Robinson; G. W. Thomson, and Dr. W. W. C. Topley, Agricultural Research Council. Professor J. L. Simonsen, lately of the University College of North Wales, has been appointed director of research.

Certain members of the council are also members of the Colonial Research Committee and the council will work in close touch with that body. It will be financed out of the provision for research in the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE wide field which *Biological Abstracts* covers and the promptness with which its abstracts appear