

chairmen of the council and of its divisions, he was an indispensable strength. He knew what the scientific men of America could do.

An executive who shares responsibility for an organization is always looking ahead. There is little enough time in which to reflect leisurely upon or take satisfaction in accomplishment that meets with general approval. His day is lived mostly in to-morrow. One remembers the almost superhuman drive which Barrows put into the things that to-morrow had to put forth. This gave his work the relentless quality of time itself. Time, organization, men and officers, with Barrows added in, became one inexorable continuum. A force reached out from his desk to every part of the country and into every institution where creative work was done in science. He would repudiate my words if he could hear them. He thought of himself only as the agent of an idea—how organization and consultation could promote progress in scientific research. I remember how greatly Oscar Firkins's definition of an institution pleased him: "Whenever man finds a useful idea he creates an institution, systematically to remind himself of the idea."

He could scarcely be brought to talk about his family and he did so in a rare and shy way that was endearing. Only once did he seem to speak spontaneously on that theme—when mention was made of his son's part in the present war as a Lieutenant on a submarine in the Pacific. And what a part! To be told when the war becomes history. His enthusiasm reflected perhaps his own disappointment when our armed preparations began that it seemed best to remain at his post rather than resume active military work at fifty-nine, if indeed he were allowed to do so. For thirty years he had trained for it as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Infantry Reserve. (He had been Captain of a Machine Gun Battery in France, 1917–1919, and won the Croix de Guerre by dangerous reconnaissance at Audenarde in the final push in Flanders.) He loved the techniques of modern military tactics and the possibilities of their efficient use under the chain of unified military command.

He was a born organizer for defined purposes. The

purpose was uppermost. He had an essential instinct for loftiness of purpose and was visibly inspired by it. He had an unquenchable public spirit. If paper work occasionally dragged him down, a turn on his motorcycle or a tour of duty in the reserve officers' corps or a new plan of action and new men and forces in the National Research Council would restore him quickly to his natural rate of putting organizational power back of an agreed plan or idea.

It was most fitting that the memorial services held on November 11, 1942, should have consisted largely of the reading of a few of his favorite poems. There was a passion in his work for the Council and in his spirit that only certain emotional forms of poetry could express. Many who knew only his professional drive and his formal manner missed an integrating and profoundly sustaining quality, his capacity for feeling and for the beautiful expression of it. Now that we can appraise the whole of his life we can choose our viaticum with a better sense of appropriateness in a few lines from Kipling's tribute to the devoted teachers of his school:

For their work continueth,
And their work continueth,
Broad and deep continueth,
Great beyond their knowing.

ISAIAH BOWMAN

RECENT DEATHS

DR. WILLIAM ALBERT SETCHELL, professor of botany, emeritus, of the University of California at Berkeley, died on April 5, 1943, in his seventy-ninth year.

DR. MARY JANE RATHBUN, honorary associate in zoology of the U. S. National Museum, died on April 4 at the age of eighty-two years.

DR. GARFIELD POWELL, assistant professor of chemistry at Columbia University and an assistant to the dean of Columbia College, has died. He was forty-nine years old.

THE death on March 30 is announced of William Oscar Walker, for the last twenty-five years professor of chemistry at McMaster University, Canada.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TUFTS COLLEGE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

THE Tufts College Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi was formally installed by the national officers of the society on April 2. The day's activities began with an academic procession and convocation, attended by the Tufts College faculty and student body as well as by the national officers and delegates from chapters in many other institutions. At the con-

vocation exercises Dr. Leonard Carmichael, president of the college and member of Sigma Xi, gave a brief history of scientific research at the college. Dr. George Baitzell, of Yale University, national secretary; Dr. Harlow Shapley, of Harvard University, national president, and Dr. Edward Ellery, of Union College, past national president, were introduced and presented interesting accounts of the growth and aims of the Society of the Sigma Xi. A luncheon for the