

Arizona, where he was professor of zoology and entomologist of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Elmer Darwin Ball was born in Athens, Vt., on September 21, 1870, the son of Leroy A. and Mary A. (Mansfield) Ball. The family removed soon after to Iowa, with which state Dr. Ball was identified during his early life and the beginning of his career. In 1899 he married Mildred R. Norvell, who survives him.

In the public schools of Iowa and Iowa State College he received his early education and teaching experience, receiving the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the college in 1895 and 1898. After teaching in the common schools of his state and serving a year as assistant principal of Albion Seminary, he began his scientific teaching career as assistant in zoology and entomology at his alma mater, transferring from there to a similar position in the Colorado Agricultural College in 1897 for four years. Next he accepted a professorship in the Utah Agricultural College and completed, during this period of his career, his graduate work under guidance of Professor Herbert Osborn, becoming a specialist in the leafhoppers and related families and receiving the Ph.D. degree from Ohio State in 1907. He has been for years an outstanding authority on the taxonomy of these groups of insects.

In 1907 also he was appointed to be dean of the Utah Agricultural College and director of the Experiment Station, and it was while he served in this capacity that the writer first met him and formed a friendship of many years standing. He could always be counted upon for support of local scientific organizations, as well as national, as evidenced by his holding membership in the Academies of Science of Iowa, Ohio, Utah, Wisconsin, California and Washington, D. C., in addition to the usual memberships in professional organizations.

In 1916 Dr. Ball became state entomologist of Wisconsin, but after two years returned to teaching as head of the department of zoology and entomology at Iowa State College. Since this position entails also the duties of state entomologist, teaching may have been largely curtailed by administration. The last two years of his incumbency at Iowa State he was on leave to serve as assistant secretary of agriculture under secretaries Meredith and Wallace. From 1921 to 1925 he was director of scientific work in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Here he backed legislation raising salaries of scientific workers in the department to enable it to obtain and hold better research men.

From 1925 to 1928 Dr. Ball was in charge of celery insect investigations for the Florida State Plant Board. The resulting publication by Ball and co-workers is outstanding in its emphasis on the ecologi-

cal phases of the problem, and shows in fact that the celery leaf tier is effectively prevented by ecological conditions from doing damage most years and that artificial control is only occasionally necessary and can be anticipated in time to prepare.

In the fall of 1928 he became dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Arizona, and in 1931 transferred again to teaching and research in the position held at the time illness overcame him.

Dr. Ball throughout his career was known as an indefatigable investigator. In Utah he pioneered in development of the driving spray method of codling moth control, did the genetics work on a long-time poultry breeding experiment, and first clearly recognized and pointed out the probable transmission of curly top of sugar beets by the beet leafhopper, later proven, and now unquestioned. The third discovered instance of insect transmission of plant disease, tipburn of potato, was first suggested by him. While in the Wisconsin work, he suggested and organized methods of eradication of American foul brood of bees and in Arizona engaged in a major project on range grasshoppers.

Throughout his career he used every possible hour and vacation period in collecting and taxonomic study of those small but often economically important little insects known as leaf-hoppers, tree-hoppers, frog-hoppers and some related forms. His unrivalled private collection of these insects is now a part of the National Museum collection. His contributions number some two hundred papers, of which over one hundred are taxonomic, more than sixty economic, and the remainder in general science and administration.

Dr. Ball was an enthusiastic teacher, helpful with counsel and financial assistance to worthy students. The writer has known him as a colleague in scientific organizations, as a dean and director, and finally as a member of the writer's department and in all these capacities as a cheerful co-worker and loyal friend.

CHAS. T. VORHIES

#### DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. MALCOLM D. BRODE, professor of zoology at the University of South Carolina from 1927 to 1929 and at Beloit College from 1929 to 1935, lost his life on November 1 in a fire at Berkeley, Calif. He was forty-three years old.

LIEUTENANT CHARLES F. BOWERS, on leave as professor of architectural engineering at Iowa State College, is reported to have lost his life on October 21 in an airplane accident in the South Pacific.

PROFESSOR ROLLAND D. FOX, associate professor of bacteriology at the University of Akron and director

of the laboratories of the health department of the city of Akron, died on October 24 at the age of forty-four years.

DR. ARMIN V. ST. GEORGE, associate professor of pathology at the New York University School of Forensic Medicine and since 1916 assistant director of the laboratories at Bellevue Hospital, died on November 20. He was fifty-one years old.

EARLE R. PICKETT, since 1929 chief chemist for the Beech-Nut Packing Company, died on November 6 at the age of forty-seven years.

RALPH N. MAXSON, for thirty-seven years a member of the department of chemistry of the University of Kentucky, died on November 18. A correspondent writes: "His first diploma was granted him at Rhode Island State College in 1902. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1905 and became affiliated with the University of Kentucky in 1906. In 1907 he was made assistant professor; in 1909 professor of inorganic chemistry. He became head of the department of chemistry in 1934, but in 1942 he resigned that position and resumed his former title of professor of inorganic chemistry, a position he held until his death. Dr. Maxson was a member of the American Chemical Society since 1910, the American Association of University Professors, the Society of Sigma Xi and Pi Gamma Mu, and the Kentucky Educational Association."

THE REVEREND FATHER GILLET, director of the Botanical Garden of Kisantu, Inkisi, Belgian Congo, Africa, died on July 22. He is succeeded by his assistant, the Reverend F. L. Gorissen.

THE death at the age of sixty-three years is announced from Moscow of Dr. Sergeo I. Spasokukotey, the well-known surgeon, a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, who a short time ago received the Joseph Stalin Award.

*Nature* reports the death of Dr. H. L. Lebesgue, For. Mem. R.S., during 1941 professor of mathematics in the Collège de France, at the age of sixty-eight years, and of Professor Einar Lönnberg, the well-known Swedish zoologist.

It is reported in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a bas-relief portrait of Dr. James B. Herrick, for many years a member of the staff of Presbyterian Hospital, was presented to the hospital during special exercises on November 6 commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the hospital, the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the School of Nursing and the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of the first students to Rush Medical College. The portrait was presented on behalf of the associates of Dr. Herrick by Dr. Ernest E. Irons, formerly dean of the college.

THE *S. S. Victor C. Vaughan*, launched at Portland, Oregon, on September 12, was named in honor of the late Dr. Vaughan, dean of the Medical School of the University of Michigan. The name Victor C. Vaughan was given on Federal order. Dr. Vaughan was one of several distinguished American men of medicine named by a special commission delegated to select the men to be so honored. *The Michigan Alumnus*, in the issue of October 23, records the naming of the Vaughan General Hospital, a new unit of the Army's system of hospitals.

A LIBERTY ship named in honor of Charles H. Herty, formerly editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* and in 1915-1916 president of the American Chemical Society, was recently launched.

THE Spanish Cultural Institute at Buenos Aires has dedicated a histological laboratory to the memory of Ramon y Cajal. It is under the direction of Professor Hortegan.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF WAYNE UNIVERSITY

CITIZENS of Detroit and Wayne County have formed a corporation for the construction of the first units of the projected \$50,000,000 Medical Science Center of Wayne University.

The announcement was made by Wendell Anderson, chairman of the Citizens' Executive Committee, which has had the project in charge since the Board of Education adopted a resolution pointing out that the program of the Medical Center had "progressed to a point requiring more formal organization." The resolution went on to request the incorporation.

The corporation will be called "The Medical Science Center of Wayne University." Its first board of directors, as designated in the resolution, will be Wendell Anderson, Dr. Warren E. Bow, George R. Fink, Charles T. Fisher, Jr., Frederick J. Gartner, Elmer P. Grierson, Ormond E. Hunt, E. Edwin Hutchinson, George W. Mason, Henry Meyers, Dr. Edgar H. Norris, Dr. Burt R. Shurly and Fred M. Zeder.

The corporation will have full charge of planning, developing and equipping the Medical Science Center, and will raise money for these purposes. When completed, individual units will be turned over to Wayne University, which will then own and operate them.