

ment, when applied to the perplexities of his associates, helped many scientists to find their way more clearly through scientific and personal problems;

Whose friends, holding him in high professional respect and personal esteem, include almost all those who knew him.

Therefore, *be it resolved*,

That on this sixth day of February, 1944, we, the members of the Executive Committee of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as the elected representatives of the Association, express to Mrs. J. McKeen Cattell and all other members of the family of Doctor J. McKeen Cattell, our appreciation of: Doctor Cattell's unmatched services to American and International science and to scientific publications; The privilege and good fortune in our long association with Doctor Cattell, and our sense of irreparable loss through his death.

The Executive Committee expresses its sympathy with Doctor Cattell's family and with the host of other friends of this truly great American citizen, and acknowledges the obligation of this Committee and the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to go forward with the great work to which Doctor Cattell devoted so much of his thought and energy throughout his long and effective life.

J. W. BARKER
OTIS W. CALDWELL
W. B. CANNON
A. J. CARLSON
ARTHUR H. COMPTON
BURTON E. LIVINGSTON
KIRTLEY F. MATHER
F. R. MOULTON
E. C. STAKMAN
W. E. WEATHER

SOME PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

By Dr. R. S. WOODWORTH

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF PSYCHOLOGY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

DR. CATTELL was a man of strong character and distinctive personality. He was indeed, as has been said, a "dominant figure" in many scientific circles. It would be a mistake, however, to describe him as dominant in the sense of domineering or to imply that he was eager to dominate the groups in which he played so important a part. Characteristically outspoken and free-thinking, he was nevertheless not at all inclined to jump to a hasty conclusion or to express more than a tentative opinion on doubtful questions. He was an excellent committee man and council member, as amply proved by his fifty years of constructive service in such capacities.

In the old days it was true that many of his graduate students were afraid of him, as they had need to be if their experimental work was sloppy, if they neglected the literature of their problems, or claimed far-reaching conclusions from limited data, or failed to consider the "probable error" of their results. But the sincere research student had nothing to fear from Cattell, who was all interest and helpfulness. Instead of handing out prescribed dissertation subjects he gave each student the first say in the choice of a problem and followed the student's lead if it gave any promise of accurate scientific work. In consequence a great variety of experiments went on in his laboratory, though some of the best were following up his own leads. To his advanced students and junior colleagues he was a loyal personal friend as well as a keen scientific adviser.

In an after-dinner speech before a group of friends and associates, including many of his old students,

Cattell told a story of his boyhood. His mother took him for examination to a phrenologist who gave the boy a fine rating in almost every respect but added one less favorable note: "You are deficient in will power!" The spontaneous outburst of laughter from his friendly audience seemed to surprise Dr. Cattell, who probably did not regard himself as a notably strong-willed individual. He may even as a youth have accepted the phrenologist's dictum and have striven earnestly to develop his will power. As an adult he certainly showed abundant courage in undertaking large and difficult tasks, and notable energy and persistence in putting them through. But as regards this matter of dominance his attitude was not one of imposing his will on his juniors and subordinates, though it was one of resisting domination by those higher up—unless their authority was due to merit and ability rather than simply to position. The ruling classes and pillars of society, and especially university presidents and trustees were the target of pungent epigrams which he evidently took great pleasure in concocting and applying to his victims in conversation and in his speeches and writings. Addressing a Johns Hopkins group at the time of President Remsen's inauguration he said:

As Mr. Remsen told us that the professor would be pleased, but not particularly improved, by an increase in salary, I may perhaps be permitted to suggest that a president might be pained, but would not be seriously injured, by a reduction of his salary to that of the professor.

And speaking to a Harvard group on the baffling problems of the college curriculum he said:

It is not desirable to support at public expense certain country clubs or detention hospitals in which rich boys may be segregated. . . . Thanks to heredity and opportunity combined, there are more dominant personalities, such as Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, Mr. Pierpont Morgan and Mr. Lawrence Lowell, from this small upper class than from the working millions. Whether or not we should be better off without such men is not the question. Until opportunity can be equalized we shall have them; the college must bear its share of responsibility for what they do in the world.

It irked Cattell that the support of scientific research should be dependent on the favor of administrators and politicians. Time and again he urged that it would be much more logical if a fraction of the economic gain from research should be turned back as a matter of right to the scientific fraternity for the support of further research. In founding the Psychological Corporation in 1921 his hope was—and it is being realized—that applied psychology might pay its own way and earn at least a part of the funds needed for its advancement.

Cattell's interest in children was obvious to the many friends who visited his home on the mountain in Garrison, New York, a home no more remarkable for its location and scenic outlook than for its friendly hospitality. If you took your own children with you, you soon discovered that his love for children extended beyond his own large and appealing group of youngsters. Since these children were not sent to school there were rumors afloat that they were being kept in isolation and subjected to some strange experimental sort of education. As a matter of fact, with the editorial staff working in the home, with the numerous distinguished visitors and with the superior young men brought in as tutors, these children were far from isolated; and it may be permitted to add, as against

the rumors of harsh treatment and restricted educational opportunities, that these children have not done so badly and that the solidarity of the Cattell family has been remarkable through all these years.

Cattell's deep interest in child welfare and family welfare, and his skepticism regarding the value of schools as they are were clearly set forth in an article on "The School and the Family," which he published in the *Popular Science Monthly* for January, 1909. He wrote:

Mankind will last only so long as children are born and cared for; and no plausible substitute for the family has been proposed. . . . The school by its nature weakens the family, for it takes the children away from home and gives them interests not centered in the home. . . . We need most of all to make life in the country attractive and fine. . . . The country school is at present no such place. Its general tendency is not to prepare children for usefulness and happiness in country life, but rather to make them inefficient and uncomfortable there and to send those who are more clever and ambitious away to the city. And the school shares with the city the bad preeminence of being one of the principal causes now working to break up the family. . . . Can one not fancy a school in the country, the house a model of simple beauty . . . surrounded by gardens, orchards and barns? . . . In this house the children would gather . . . for some two hours a day. The master and mistress and their older children . . . would teach the tricks of reading, writing and reckoning to those who lacked them, and all would be encouraged to go as far as they cared along the paths of letters and science. Two further hours might be spent in working about the place, in the shop, in the garden or with the animals, sewing, cooking or cleaning, learning to do efficiently and economically the things that must be done. . . . Children would always be the chief concern in a home and in a school such as this. There would be no pathological, no economic, no psychological conditions at work for their extermination.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CORPORATION

By Dr. PAUL S. ACHILLES

ONE of Dr. Cattell's many notable achievements was the organization in 1921 of the Psychological Corporation. The launching of this unique business enterprise in the early days of applied psychology was typical of his exceptional foresight and courage. Although others realized that many of the practical applications of psychology would be of economic value, it was Cattell who took courageous and far-sighted action. He proposed that psychologists should *earn* funds for research and, accordingly, he established a business corporation, owned and operated by psychologists, not for private gain but, as stated in its charter, for "the advancement of psychology and the promotion of the useful applications of psychology."

Thus he sought both to bridge the gap between psychological theory and practice and to provide that some share of the legitimate profits from practice be conserved for research and the further advancement of the science. His challenge to the few hundred recognized psychologists at the time was, "Let us mix our brains with our money," explaining that, under the aegis of a business corporation, psychologists could render many useful services to business organizations, to educational institutions and to individuals, and thereby earn funds for psychological research.

I played no part in the corporation's founding, but was fortunate in 1926 to be elected its secretary and treasurer, and have maintained my connection with