

Always open to approach by those who needed counsel and advice he gave to them unsparingly of his time and strength. What he expressed to such as sought him out were his honest and inmost convictions spoken with unquestionable freedom and full sincerity. His views were his own. If this course sometimes made enemies for him, it made enemies who at least respected him. Personally unselfish yet tenacious of purpose, his accomplishments were always for the general good. Few recognized to the extent that he did the strong undercurrents of scientific endeavor that flow through this and all other rightly constituted nations. With unusual insight and unerring fidelity he urged forward those scientific movements that make for real human betterment and the ideals of true learning.

With a life based upon such principles no wonder that the door of opportunity was often open to him! He was early admitted to membership in the American

Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences. He served the American Psychological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in many capacities including that of President in both organizations. His membership in other societies was wide and distinguished. Intimacy with him was a delightful experience because of his generous and kindly nature. Ready and brilliant in thought his words were a pleasure to those who gave ear to them. What he said and what he wrote had often a note of shrewdness, but it was shrewdness tempered with the best of wisdom. The achievements of his life are of lasting value. They are not the doings of an hour to pass off as quickly. They are vigorous, far-sighted movements that because of his clear intuitions and energy have gained such an impetus that they are bound to carry far into the future. Such an inheritance Cattell has left us. It is for us to see that it shall not perish.

HUMANITARIAN—A REMINISCENCE

By Dr. HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL

PRINCETON, N. J.

I HAD once an opportunity to see an aspect of Dr. Cattell's activity and character which is probably less widely known than his lifelong support of the causes in which he believed, but does him equal honor. It was on an Atlantic liner, bound for England. Two days from port, a woman in the third-class, seriously ill, who was returning with her two young children for a last visit to her parents, suffered a sudden attack and died. The stewards, doing their best to help, went about the ship with one of the weeping children, and "passed the hat," securing a few pounds for them. Dr. Cattell, hearing of this, realized that the situation demanded help—and action—on a larger scale. He drew up a statement telling how the children were left destitute and required substantial aid, and headed a subscription list with a liberal personal contribution. Next—as he told me—"I got the purser to give me a list of all the passengers who had rooms with bath, and interviewed them personally." This brought a number of contributions—some of a hundred dollars. Fortified with this he posted the subscription-list on the companion-way—amounts and all—realizing that

this course would set a scale appropriate to the emergency.

His knowledge of human nature was justified. Subscriptions came in steadily; and before the ship reached Plymouth, a fund of more than a thousand dollars was ready to place in trust with the steamship company—to be applied to the children's education and welfare.

Had this been a matter of private generosity on the part of Dr. Cattell it would not be appropriate to recount it here. But the very fact that he made it a public, and thus a community matter, illustrates his sound knowledge of practical psychology, and his clear perception of the limits of the conventional rules of reticence in such matters.

He alone, of all the long passenger-list, realized the magnitude of the need. With no time for delay, he made sure of a promising start for his campaign before he launched it publicly, and he followed it to a completely successful conclusion. The little episode illustrates so well his knowledge of human nature, and his interest in human welfare, that it deserves to be recorded.

COURAGEOUS LEADER

By Dr. W. F. G. SWANN

BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, SWARTHMORE, PA.

IN the death of Professor J. McKeen Cattell, science has lost a colorful personality who, for a full lifetime, has exerted a profound influence upon American scholarship.

The man who held the world's first chair in psy-

chology did not confine his influence to the field of his specialty, but, using his extraordinary talents and initiative for organization in the field of publication, has done a work which few could do, and this with a whole-hearted devotion to the cause which spared

neither his personal energy nor his personal fortune in its furtherance. On talking with him one could not help but be impressed by the almost reverent attitude which he adopted towards the matter of standards in connection with the publications with which he was concerned. He would not hesitate to go after the material he wanted, but when he got it, he insisted on the maintenance of standards which he had at heart.

A man of Professor Cattell's forcefulness, strong convictions, courage and personal drive might be ex-

pected to find frequent occasion for difference of opinion with others, and several such cases of public interest can be cited. Unswerving in his convictions and strong in courage, he did not weaken in the attack because the enemy might be strong. Gifted with a sense of humor, he could make his darts tell, when fired to spill the blood of what he deemed arrogance, unfairness, complacency or indifference to the good of his fellows. However, in all this, he was a man who merited and won the respect of all and the love of those who were fortunate enough to be his friends.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE GREENWICH ROYAL OBSERVATORY

THE Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which was established in 1675 on its present site for the advancement of the science of navigation and nautical astronomy, as already reported in *SCIENCE*, may have to be moved. The naval correspondent of *The Times*, London, writes:

For over two and a half centuries it has provided the standards of navigators; to-day it gives the time to the whole world and all longitudes are measured from the meridian that passes through its transit instrument.

When it was established, Greenwich was a country village well clear of London's smoke; even in the last century, when magnetic observations were added to its duties, it was sufficiently rural to be free from disturbance. But to-day London has spread round it. Even at the end of the last century its work was much hampered by the construction of a power station from which smoke from the chimneys, sited exactly on the meridian, interfered with astronomical observations. The vibration of its reciprocating engines was also felt at the top of the hill.

The great development of electrical machinery, even in the home, compelled some years ago the removal of the magnetic observatory to a country site in Surrey. To-day interference of various kinds has become so serious that the removal of all activities that can be separated from the site on the prime meridian is being considered.

Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, pointed out that the observatory is already dispersed, partly owing to bomb damage and partly for security reasons.

A great deal of work would have to be carried out before any move could be made, and all that had been done so far was to accept, in principle, the need for a move if the observatory was to continue the valuable astronomical work it had done in the past.

There are only two alternatives—either to put up with the conditions at Greenwich and deteriorate into a second-rate institution or move away into conditions where useful work can be done.

THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND PLANT INDUSTRY AT THE SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

THE Southern Methodist University at Dallas plans to establish an Institute of Technology and Plant Industry. It will have the active participation of the National Cotton Council, which in the field of plant study and adaptation will merge its facilities with the new institute. Dr. C. L. Lundell, of the University of Michigan, has been appointed director.

The institute will include an agricultural research station, a research laboratory and a southwestern herbarium. For the agricultural research station a tract of 110 acres of land has been purchased near Renner, nine miles from the university. It will sponsor research which will bring agriculture and industry into closer relationship.

A laboratory with other necessary buildings will be erected on the farm at an early date. A chemical building is to be erected at the university. Other buildings will be added as required. An agronomist and a geneticist with several farmers and mechanics have been appointed to the staff.

Affiliation of the institute with the National Cotton Council of Memphis provides for the removal to Dallas and other strategic locations in the Southwest of its cotton production and breeding projects, in which the two research organizations will supplement each other's activities.

Under the auspices of the council and the university a plant introduction garden at Acapulco, Mexico, on the Pacific Ocean will be maintained. The council is transferring its production staff, of which Dr. Harold H. Webber, of the research division, is director, to the university. It will spend \$62,000 this year for cotton research, jointly sponsored by it and by the War Production Board. Dr. Simon Williams, director of the cotton research division of the National Cotton Council, now has his headquarters at the University of Texas, where he formerly had charge of cotton research.