

OBITUARY

JOSEPH JASTROW
1863-1944

JOSEPH JASTROW, emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin and widely known as a psychologist, died in his eightieth year at Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on January 8, 1944. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, on January 30, 1863, the son of the Reverend Marcus and Bertha (Wolfsohn) Jastrow.

He was graduated at the age of nineteen in 1882 from the University of Pennsylvania, from which institution he also was granted a master's degree in 1885. In 1885 he held a fellowship in psychology at the Johns Hopkins University, where the first laboratory of psychology in America and the second in the world had been organized two years before. He received his doctor's degree in 1886. Two years later he married Rachel Szold, a devoted helpmeet until her death in 1926.

He was called to the University of Wisconsin in 1888 as professor of experimental and comparative psychology (the title soon changed to professor of psychology) with instructions to organize a psychological laboratory. Virtually all his long service as a teacher was given to this institution, though he held a lectureship at Columbia University in 1910, and, on his retirement from the University of Wisconsin in 1927, was a lecturer in the New School for Social Research in New York City for six years from 1927-1933. He was in charge of the psychological section of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. At the opening of the psychological laboratory at Wittenberg College in 1928, the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him.

Professor Jastrow was a charter member of the American Physiological Society organized in 1887 and was the next to the last of its living founders. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and vice-president of Section H in 1891. He was one of twenty-six charter members of the American Psychological Association organized in 1892 and its first secretary, 1892-1893. He was elected president of the association in 1900 and in his presidential address selected and defended two problems of psychology as of the greatest significance: the study of animal behavior as the primer of human behavior, and applied psychology "not for analysis alone but for practical yardstick purposes." He emphasized the wide extension of measurements of mental processes and capacities beyond psychophysics and reaction time, the study of abnormal psychology for the light it might throw on normal phenomena, and the admission of psychology on an

equality into the fraternity of sciences. Of the two major problems the second engaged his interest and attention throughout his life and notably in the sixteen years after his retirement from the University of Wisconsin as an active teacher, as is indicated in the many volumes that he published.

Professor Jastrow possessed a keen, incisive mind and an extraordinarily facile pen. In addition to numerous and frequent contributions to scientific journals on psychological problems and joint authorship in several monographs, he published the following books: "The Time Relations of Mental Phenomena," 1890; "Fact and Fable in Psychology," 1900; "The Subconscious," 1906; "The Qualities of Men," 1910; "Character and Temperament," 1915; "The Psychology of Conviction," 1918; "Keeping Mentally Fit: A Guide to Everyday Psychology," 1928; "Piloting Your Life: The Psychologist as a Helmsman," 1930; "Effective Thinking," 1931; "The House that Freud Built," 1932; "Wish and Wisdom," 1934; "Sanity First," 1935; "The Story of Human Error" (editor and contributor), 1936; "The Betrayal of Intelligence," 1938.

In the last volume there appears what seems to have been the keynote of his life as a psychologist in the injunction, "Be critical—critical in what you accept, critical in whom you follow as authority." He was early an ardent foe of pseudo-scientific applications of psychology as is indicated in one of his best-known books, "Fact and Fable in Psychology." The volumes since 1928 grew out of syndicated newspaper articles and adventures in broadcasting, giving critical and sound advice on psychological matters. He was equally vigorous in his criticism of "isms" in psychology and the various so-called schools of psychology that did nothing but create confusion and chaos. In recent years he also sketched but did not fully expound a naturalistic conception of psychology based on the known or reasonably conjectured facts of neurology which he hoped would bring cosmos out of the present persisting chaos. It is a matter for regret that he did not elaborate his "naturalistic approach and scheme of psychology" for which he expressed great hope and confidence.

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RECENT DEATHS

DR. SANFORD R. GIFFORD, since 1929 professor of ophthalmology at Northwestern University, died on February 25. He was fifty-two years old.

THE REVEREND FRANCIS JAMES DORE, S. J., head of the department of biology of Boston College, died on February 28 in his sixty-eighth year.