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.

DR. FRANK LAWRENCE COOPER, instructor in physics at Yale University, died on February 25 in his sixty-ninth year.

DR. HARRY FLETCHER BROWN, vice-president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, who from 1904 to 1911 was director of the department for smokeless powder, died on February 28 in his seventy-seventh year.

PERLEY J. BUCHANAN, director of Process Development and Chemical Control of the American Agricultural Chemical Company, died on February 23 at the age of sixty years.

DR. JAMES BRODBECK, president and chairman of the board of the Society of Chemical Industry at Basle, Switzerland, died on February 26 at the age of sixty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN

RECOMMENDATIONS are made by the London Chamber of Commerce in a report on scientific and industrial research, which was adopted at a recent meeting. *The Times,* London, states that

The report was submitted by a special committee, appointed on June 8 last year, "to ascertain in what manner the chamber could assist in promoting research in industry." The chamber has reached the conclusion that in order to galvanize research in this country into full and fruitful activity there are three basic essentials: A centralized and planned direction, through a Central Research Board, a far greater stream of money flowing into research, and a larger, better trained, and better paid staff.

The report suggests that the proposed Central Board should act as a coordinating and directing body for all research organizations, and be the link between the Government and the research activities of the country at large. The need for better facilities for specific research on behalf of the small firm is held to be evident.

The Central Research Board should have the right to intervene and require research associations, in consideration of the public funds placed at their disposition, to undertake fundamental research in directions which it judges to be in the national interest, and to require greater activity on the part of associations, which, in its view, are proving unequal to their responsibilities. It should be the duty of the board to consider the effect on national trade and industry as a whole of discoveries of a fundamental nature, and to direct the use of those discoveries so that they may be of the maximum advantage to the nation.

Dealing with finance, the Chamber believes that the universities, as the bodies entrusted with the vital task of carrying on pure research, should maintain a far larger staff than at present of graduates and of skilled laboratory technicians. It is recommended that the number of research fellowships at the universities should be substantially increased.

The Chamber strongly supports the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in its recommendation that a sum of £10,000,000 should be spent over the first five post-war years in equipping and enlarging university laboratories, and that the program, estimated before the war to cost £12,000,000, to increase the provision of technical and art colleges and to expand and bring up-to-date those already in existence, should be carried out.

EXHIBIT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

AN exhibition portraying the history and activities during the last twenty-five years of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences has been placed on display in the Library of Congress.

Founded by Peter the Great in 1724, the academy to-day consists of approximately 136 academicians, more than 30 honorary academicians, about 224 corresponding members and over 5,000 scientific and technical assistants. Sixteen American scientific workers are now honorary or corresponding members of the academy. The portraits of some of the more prominent academicians have been included in the exhibition through the cooperation of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. Representative volumes of the more important works by members of the academy have been selected for display from the extensive collection of Russian materials in the Library of Congress, probably the richest to be found in any library in the Western Hemisphere.

The organization of the academy groups its activities in eight departments, to each of which a section of the exhibit is devoted: the departments of physico-mathematical, chemical, geology-geographical, biological and technical sciences; history and philosophy, economy and law, and language and literature. Under these eight departments, the academy maintains 76 institutions, 11 laboratories, 47 stations, 6 observatories and 24 museums. There are also eight branches of the Academy of Sciences throughout the Soviet Union, under the supervision of which are 39 institutes, 28 stations, 3 astronomical observatories, 8 botanical gardens, 3 sanctuaries and 17 other scientific research establishments. The exhibit includes publications issued by each of the departments of the academy and some of its branches.

The peace-time work of the academy was suddenly interrupted on June 22, 1941, when Germany invaded Russia. From the very beginning of the invasion,