

the war. What we need first, of course, is to know what Soviet scientists are doing and to have them know what we are doing. An important beginning has been made by the founding in October, 1943, of *American Review of Soviet Medicine*. Various commissions of scientists sent from Britain, Canada and the United States to Russia and by the Soviet Union to these countries have been helpful. But these measures are really only a meager beginning. We must have the fullest practicable two-way diffusion of scientific journals and books and ultimately, of course, of students, research workers and exchange professors.

Ways should be found as soon as possible to set up means for the importation of complete files of scientific periodicals and books into both countries and covering the entire period of the war during which inter-communication has been interrupted. This interchange should of course continue indefinitely into the future.

Agencies already exist in this country for indexing and abstracting Russian scientific literature in several areas of science. *Biological Abstracts* and *Chemical Abstracts* are examples. These agencies at present are handicapped by the impossibility of obtaining current Russian journals. A plan is at present being explored by *Biological Abstracts* looking to establishment of a central agency to survey all current Russian periodical literature in the biological sciences, to translate the worth-while articles into English and to republish in English as perhaps quarterly journals. Such a plan

would seem most worthy of support. Would not a similar central agency in Russia for the literature in English be worth establishing?

Plans should certainly be elaborated for the interchange after the war of students, investigators and teachers between Russia and America.

International scientific congresses before the war brought valuable interchange of scientists between all civilized countries. The need for these will increase as problems of health, social and economic well-being become increasingly common to all nations. Plans and means for realization of all these forms of cultural interchange should be elaborated as opportunity affords.

It is encouraging to learn that fifteen Isaac Newton scholarships for students in mathematics and physics departments in Soviet higher educational institutes were recently established by the People's Commissariat of Education. Would it not be a useful contribution to establish scholarships in American universities in honor of great Russian scientists and to be held by English-speaking Russian students?

The common efforts of the Soviet and American Unions and of the other United Nations are now achieving victory against a barbarism which threatened to overwhelm good-will among men, scientific truth and the common weal of all mankind. Our common efforts will be equally needed after the war to enrich the culture and lay the foundations for the well-being of a world that must be kept at peace.

OBITUARY

FRERE MARIE-VICTORIN

PROFESSOR MARIE-VICTORIN, eminent botanist, met his death on July 15, 1944, while returning with four companions in his automobile from a collecting trip to Black Lake, Megantic County, in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. The trip had been organized especially to find a rare fern (*Cheilanthes siliquosa*) which grows only on the serpentine hills of that region. While returning to Montreal, at 10:30 in the evening, a collision occurred on the wide boulevard leading to St. Hyacinthe. None of the party was severely injured, but about half an hour after the accident, Frère Marie-Victorin collapsed and died from heart failure. He was in his sixtieth year, and would have completed his twenty-five years of university teaching in 1945.

Interment took place in the cemetery of the Christian Brothers at Mont-de-la-Salle, Laval-des-Rapides, near Montreal.

Frère Marie-Victorin, whose ancestors hailed from Brittany, was born on April 3, 1885, at Kingsey Falls,

a tiny village in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. His father was Cyrille Kirouac, and his mother Philomène Luneau. He was baptized under the names of Joseph-Louis-Conrad. His parents having thereafter established themselves in the city of Quebec, where his father became a prominent merchant, young Conrad attended the Christian Brothers' school at St. Sauveur, and afterwards the Commercial Academy, where he was graduated in 1901, first of his class. He then entered the Christian Brothers' novitiate of Mont-de-la-Salle in Montreal, at that time situated in Maisonneuve Park, which was later to become under his initiative the Montreal Botanical Garden.

After a short stay as teacher in St. Jerome College and St. Leo's Academy in Westmount, he was attached in 1904 to Longueuil College, where he taught until 1928, and where he resided until his death. In his early twenties, he was very ill with tuberculosis for many months, and had to spend this period in the Laurentians, resting and at long last recuperating, though he remained weak for the rest of his life. It

was during this period of forced rest that he became deeply interested in the study of wild plants, on which he started publishing papers right after his cure, about 1907-1908. From that moment, he became a frequent contributor to various periodicals, such as the *Naturaliste Canadien*, the *Ottawa Naturalist*, the *Bryologist*, the *Revue Trimestrielle Canadienne*, etc. His first important work was the "Flore du Témiscouata," a 125-page memoir issued in 1916.

The newly reorganized Université de Montréal appointed Frère Marie-Victorin professor of botany in 1920. Soon thereafter he started publishing a series of contributions, which appeared without interruption till the present time, and numbers at present fifty-five issues, all the earlier ones and many recent ones from his own pen.

In 1929 he travelled for several months in Europe, in Africa and in western Asia. Right after his return to Montreal he started a campaign for the foundation of a botanical garden, and was so successful in this venture that in 1932 the Montreal Botanical Garden came into existence. It was considerably expanded in 1936-1939, the University Botanical Institute itself moving in 1939 into the new large building erected to house the administrative and technical departments of the garden.

The most important work published by Frère Marie-Victorin is his "Flore laurentienne," a big quarto volume of over nine hundred pages, on which he worked for several years with his colleague Frère Alexandre (who drew all the illustrations) and several other collaborators.

Among the numerous botanical expeditions organized by Frère Marie-Victorin, the most outstanding series is probably that of 1924-1928 on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Anticosti Island. On the eve of his death he was actively engaged in the writing of the final phase of his report on these expeditions, a very extensive memoir which will eventually be published under the title of "Recherches floristiques sur l'Anticosti-Minganie."

Frère Marie-Victorin was a member of many scientific societies: the Royal Society of Canada, the Linnean Society of London, the Société Botanique de France and many others. In recent years several Latin countries of the Antilles and South America—for instance, Haiti, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador and others—elected him to their national academies or honored him in recognition of his work on the tropical flora.

In his last years, Frère Marie-Victorin, whose health was failing and who could hardly endure the severe Canadian winters, used to spend three or four months each year in some tropical country, chiefly Cuba. During these sojourns he travelled extensively from one end of the island to the other, the result of these trips being his "Itinéraires botaniques dans l'île de

Cuba," two big volumes, each of four hundred pages, profusely illustrated with hundreds of photographs taken by himself.

Apart from his scientific writings, Frère Marie-Victorin leaves several literary works, the best known being his "Récits Laurentiens" and "Croquis Laurentiens." An English version of the "Récits" was published under the title of "The Chopping Bee," and a re-edition of the French text appeared in Belgium a few years before World War II.

Honored nationally and internationally for his original investigations and his great learning, he will long be remembered with pride as an eminent Canadian scholar and with affection as a man of sympathy and gentle kindness. In particular his many friends at McGill University will recall his never-failing generosity and his charming courtesy.

The spirit of Frère Marie-Victorin will live in the hearts and minds of the pupils who have been stimulated by his teachings and inspired by his example, while for more tangible memorials there will remain his scholarly works and the Botanical Gardens of Montreal.

These gardens in their original conception, their present excellence, and their future promise, are a beautiful tribute to his imagination, his assiduous industry, and his love for the flora of his native land.

To his colleagues of the University of Montreal the Senate of McGill University extends its most sincere sympathy.

The senior author of this sketch most heartily endorses the sentiments expressed by his colleagues at McGill University. A long friendship and an extensive period of joint travel (from Capetown through the Levant to Prague, and later through much of Germany) would justify a further, more personal encomium which, however, could add only an expression of deep personal loss and sorrow.

FRANCIS E. LLOYD
JULES BRUNEL

ALBERT KINGSBURY

ALBERT KINGSBURY was born in Morris, Illinois, on December 23, 1862, the son of Lester Wayne Kingsbury, whose ancestors settled in Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1628, and of his wife, Eliza Emmeline Fosdick, twice descended from the Elder William Brewster. From his forbears Dr. Kingsbury inherited an iron will, calm speech and ways, and a depth of feeling for all associated with him in any capacity, which bound him to them with bonds of mutual respect and affection.

He attended college for one year after graduating from high school, then worked for three years in a machine shop in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. In 1884 he entered Ohio State University for two more years of study, then worked for another year. In 1887 he entered Cornell University from which he was gradu-