

Dr. Huang was born in Amoy, China, on November 8, 1903. He attended Tsing Hua College in Peking and South Eastern University in Nanking. At the age of twenty-two he came to California, attended Leland Stanford University, obtaining a master's degree in 1927, after graduate work under Terman and Miles. An interest in child psychology brought him to Yale University, where he secured his doctorate in 1930. As a student he displayed keen powers of analysis and a scholarly mind. He had an extraordinary command both of spoken and written English. The experimental as well as philosophical aspects of Gestalt theory attracted him and under the supervision of the late Kurt Koffka he carried out a doctoral research on "Children's Explanations of Strange Phenomena," published in *Psychologische Forschungen* (1930). This was the forerunner of a series of experimental studies now appearing in *The Journal of Genetic Psychology* on children's conception of physical causality; the role of repetition, organization and intention to learn in rote memory; abstraction of form and color in children; the size-weight illusion, and child animism. A monograph on "The Psychology of Children's Drawings" which showed impressive resemblances between the artistic productions of western and Chinese children was published in Chinese in 1938 (Shanghai Commercial Press). In addition to his teaching, lecturing and research, Dr. Huang established an experimental nursery school in Hangechow in 1935.

All these activities were carried on under almost incredible hardships. They coincided with the ruthless invasion by Japan. The University of Chekiang became a nomadic university forced to move from Hangechow to I-Shan, Kwangsi; to Tu Yun, Kweichow; and finally to Tsunyi. In the last removal, one thousand human beings and two thousand boxes of books and scientific apparatus had to be transported over one of the most uninhabitable and mountainous regions of the world, with gasoline at ten Chinese dollars per gallon! Under such conditions, personal sav-

ings melted away, and normal home life vanished. Dr. Huang and his family lived in a mud hut with straw roof, bamboo doors and holes for windows—and often in bombed areas. In spite of all difficulties, he pursued his scholarly work writing letters to America in quest of bibliographic and other details. A single page of one letter described the terrible realities of bombing, but went on to discuss "the question of perceptual constancies emphasized by the Gestaltists"! The scholar in Dr. Huang prevailed until he was overtaken by a painful and devastating illness.

Here we glimpse at once the amazing character of the Chinese people and the valor of this scientist's life. He was admired by his native colleagues and was held in affection by his students. Those who knew him in America remember his keen intelligence, his sense of humor and a certain playfulness of spirit, combined with a philosophic caste of mind.

ARNOLD GESELL

## RECENT DEATHS

DR. HERBERT H. WHETZEL, professor of plant pathology at Cornell University and from 1906 to 1922 head of the department, died on November 30 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. CHARLES PETER SIGERFOOS, professor emeritus of zoology of the University of Minnesota, died on November 26 at the age of seventy-nine years.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS, formerly associate in anthropology at the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, died on November 24 at the age of fifty-two years.

LYSTER HOXIE DEWEY, from 1890 to 1935 botanist in charge of fiber-crop investigations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on November 27. He was seventy-nine years old.

WARREN L. BEUSCHLEIN, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Washington, died on September 15.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PROPOSED BRITISH AERONAUTICAL COLLEGE

PLANS for the establishment in Great Britain of an aeronautical college at a cost of £2,610,000 in capital outlay and calling for an annual expenditure of £360,000 are given in the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Establishment of a School of Aeronautical Science, published on November 6. Sir Stafford Cripps, the Minister of Aircraft Production, states that the Government has accepted in principle the recommendations of the committee. According to the plan, which is described in *The Times*,

London, the primary purpose of the college will be to provide high-grade engineering, technical and scientific training in aeronautics to fit students for leadership in the aircraft industry, civil aviation, the services, education and research. It is also proposed to provide shorter courses for specialists in particular subjects, refresher courses and a general "staff course" aimed at giving a broad knowledge of aeronautics.

The college would be planned on the basis of an entry of fifty students annually on a two-year course, and two hundred students on shorter courses—a total of three hundred at any one time. The instruction