

ous disciplines of research exemplified by Darwin, Pasteur, Mall, Manouvrier and Hrdlička stamped him. He was more interested in the substance of science than the surface trimmings. His writings were straightforward and clear, never polished and never ornate. His guide to English style was Albutt, whose "Notes on the Composition of Scientific Papers" he followed for precept, not example. Taught by a Catholic aunt, a regular attendant at the Presbyterian Church as a youth, Dr. Bean later became a member of the Episcopal Church, of which he was a loyal supporter and vestryman. He had more regard for underlying principles than dogma. An abiding belief in simple Christian virtues characterized his dealings with his fellow man. He was always a friend and often a counselor of his students. His generosity and anonymous benefactions in the community still come to light from time to time. During a period when moral and scientific standards have often given place to laxity and opportunism, he remained true to the highest ideals; and his teachings and example were such that memory of him is a reaffirmation of faith in human dignity and honor.

WILLIAM BENNETT BEAN,
Major, M.C., AUS

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ROBERT K. BREWER, head of the department of physiological chemistry of the College of Medicine of Syracuse University, died on March 22.

DR. HENRY LANE BRUNER, professor emeritus of biology and geology of Butler University, with which he had been connected for forty-six years, died on March 17 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, since 1933 secretary of the National Geographic Society, died on March 24 at the age of fifty-eight years.

ROBERT HALLOWELL RICHARDS, professor emeritus of mining engineering and metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on March 27. He was one hundred years old.

DR. LELAND RUSSELL VAN WERT, consulting metallurgist and chief of the metallurgical division of the Leeds and Northrup Company, Philadelphia, makers of electrical measuring instruments, died on March 27 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. NEVIL MONROE HOPKINS, consulting and research engineer, died on March 26. He was seventy-one years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH THERAPEUTIC TRIALS COMMITTEE¹

DR. F. H. K. GREEN, of the administrative staff of the Medical Research Council, describes in the *British Medical Bulletin* the work of that council's Therapeutic Trials Committee. In response to representations by the Association of Chemical Manufacturers, the Medical Research Council organized in 1931 a scheme for the clinical testing of new remedies, and the Therapeutic Trials Committee was set up as a disinterested intermediary between the manufacturers and the medical profession, some medical men having been reluctant to carry out tests at the request of commercial firms. It was agreed that foreign as well as British remedies should be tried out and also the products of academic as well as of commercial laboratories. Manufacturers desiring trials by the Medical Research Council must agree to certain conditions. The composition and nature of the substance to be tested must be fully revealed to the council; manufacturers must not, without the council's permission, arrange for other independent trials, and the council is interested only in new substances which have not been therapeutically tested.

When a substance is to be tested, arrangements are made with clinicians of high standing to make tests,

usually at more than one hospital, and the council reserves the right to decide whether the results, favorable or not, shall be published or revealed only to the manufacturer. If a clinician's results are published, they are published under the clinician's name as a report to the Therapeutic Trials Committee. Since the scheme was organized in 1931, more than forty new substances have been tested clinically. Outstanding examples are the classical papers embodying the results of clinical trials of "prontosil rubrum," which established the therapeutic possibilities in man of the first sulphonamide drug, which had been discovered in Germany; some of the earliest controlled clinical tests of sulphanilamide; trials of stilbestrol and other synthetic estrogenic agents. During the war clinical tests of penicillin have been organized and are still going on, and British-made equivalents of important foreign pharmaceutical products are being tested. The control of infections of wounds and burns is also being studied. Ultimately, according to Dr. Green, it is at the bedside that the clinical value of any new remedy is decided.

MEMORIAL LOAN FUND FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SCIENCE

As a memorial to the late Professor H. H. Whetzel, his former students and associates in the Department

¹ From *Nature*.