OBITUARY

ROSCOE GILKEY DICKINSON
1894–1945

PROFESSOR ROSCOE GILKEY DICKINSON, who had been a member of the staff of the California Institute of Technology since 1917, died in Pasadena on July 13, 1945, after a short illness.

Professor Dickinson, who in recent years had been professor of physical chemistry and acting dean of the Graduate School at the California Institute of Technology, was the first man to receive a doctor's degree from this Institute. He was born in Brewer, Maine, on June 10, 1894, and his undergraduate work, in the field of chemical engineering, was carried on at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he received the degree S.B. in 1915. After two years as graduate assistant and research fellow at M. I. T., he accepted appointment as instructor in inorganic chemistry at the California Institute (then the Throop College of Technology), and after three years, in 1920, he was awarded the doctor of philosophy degree for his work on the structure of complex crystals. He was a National Research Fellow in Chemistry for three years, and a Fellow of the International Education Board for one year, 1924–25.

Professor Dickinson's early investigations of the structure of complex crystals by the use of x-rays were carried out with the use of methods which he had in considerable part developed, at a time when the lack of quantitative information about the interaction of x-rays and crystals made the task of the crystal structure investigator a difficult one. Dickinson's analyses, which were made with great care, have been found to be completely reliable; he determined the structures of a number of complex crystals, including the chlorostannates, the chloropalladites and platinites, the complex cyanides of zinc and mercury, tin tetraiodide and hexamethylenetetramine. His determination of the structure of hexamethylenetetramine was the first structure determination made of an organic substance by the x-ray method.

During the past twenty years he and his collaborators carried on many researches in the field of photochemistry and chemical kinetics. He was one of the pioneer investigators of the Raman spectra of ions and gas molecules, the properties of neutrons, and the use of radioactive indicators in the investigation of chemical reactions.

Professor Dickinson was closely connected with Arthur A. Noyes in the early days of the California Institute of Technology in determining the nature of the Institute, especially with respect to advanced study and research, and his influence was continued in later years through his service as chairman of the committee on graduate study and research of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. His untimely death is a serious loss to science.

LINUS PAULING

ALBERT EDWARD EDGECOMBE
1897–1945

IT is given to some men to live well beyond the allotted life span of "three-score years and ten," while others put away their test-tubes, culture media and microscopes much too early—or so it seems to us. In the latter group may be placed Professor Albert Edward Edgecombe, who died at the age of forty-eight years.

Mr. Edgecombe was born in Devonshire, England, on February 5, 1897, and succumbed to a cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Wilmette, Illinois, on March 30, 1945. He was the son of Samuel and Frances (Pennell) Edgecombe, coming to Canada with his parents when three years old. He taught in the secondary schools of Canada for several years, and served as a field agent of the Presbyterian Church in British Columbia. He was graduated with honors from Queens University, Ontario, in 1923 and received the degree of master of arts from the same institution two years later. He then entered the graduate school of the University of Chicago, completing the work for the doctorate in 1929. From the Chicago Law School he received the LL.B. and J.D. degrees in 1934. He became an American citizen in 1935.

In 1929 he joined the staff of the department of botany at Northwestern University as an assistant professor. Promotion to an associate professorship came in 1939. His special field of interest was mycology, although his broad botanical training enabled him to teach a variety of courses. He was greatly interested in certain dermatophytic fungi, and had extensive cultural work under way at the time of his death. He spent nine summers in advanced study at such institutions as Cornell University, the University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State College, the Gradwohl Biological Laboratory and the Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia University.

Dr. Edgecombe was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a charter member of the Mycological Society of America, and a member of Phytopathological Society, Botanical Society, American Association of University Professors, Sigma Xi, Phi Alpha Delta and the Illinois Academy of Science. He married Sara Roberta Mohn, of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, on November 23,