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,

1939. His widow and daughter Phyllis, together with a brother who resides in Canada, survive him.

Professor Edgecombe was a quiet, self-effacing man with a high regard for the truth, as he saw it, both in his scientific investigations and in his dealings with his fellow man. He was essentially a very religious man, although not an active participant in religious activities in his maturer years. He believed so strongly in the tenets of right living and peace that such holocausts as World War II were to him well-nigh incomprehensible and inexplicable. He was first stricken in February, but carried on by sheer courage and determination until the day of his death. His adult life might be accurately epitomized by the statement of his belief that assiduity should be the principal criterion for success.

HANFORD TIFFANY

RECENT DEATHS

CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD, the botanist, librarian of the Martha Canfield Free Library at Arlington, Vt., died on August 16 at the age of seventy-three years.

DR. GEORGE RAYMOND GAGE, professor of botany at Vanderbilt University, died on August 18 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. CHARLES B. WING, emeritus professor of structural engineering at Stanford University, died on August 23 at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. HUGH HAMPTON YOUNG, surgeon and neurologist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, died on August 23. He was seventy-four years old.

IT is reported that Dr. Hans Przibram, of the department of experimental zoology at the University of Vienna, has died of hunger in a concentration camp.

DR. H. S. VAN KLOOSTER writes to SCIENCE that "Professor Ernst Cohen, emeritus professor of physical chemistry and formerly director of the Van't Hoff laboratory in Utrecht, Holland, died in Germany sometime in September, 1944. The cause of his death and the place where he died are not known. After having been apprehended early in 1943 and released shortly afterwards, he was again arrested in March, 1944, and transported to Germany. Thus disappeared in his seventy-fifth year a noted Dutch scientist, well known to many American chemists, who after the first World War had made strenuous efforts to re-establish relations between Germany and her erstwhile enemies in the field of science."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIA

IT is reported in *The Times*, London, that Lord McGowan has written to Professor Wadia, president of the National Institute of Sciences of India, offering on behalf of the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) a number of research fellowships for the encouragement of Indians in chemistry, physics and biology, to be held at Indian universities and institutions. The sum offered is 336,000 rupees—equivalent to £25,200—over the next five to seven years.

In his letter Lord McGowan states:

The National Institute of Sciences is, we believe, destined to play in India a part similar to that which the Royal Society of London has performed for nearly 300 years in leading the scientific progress of this country. The Royal Society until recent years was hampered by lack of funds and provision for the maintenance of scientific workers. This difficulty was eventually overcome by the generosity of various benefactors, including industrialists such as Mond and Messel. We thought, therefore, that there could be no better way of encouraging the advance of science in India and with it the general prosperity of the country than by the offer of these fellowships which under the wise administration of your council will, we hope, lead to an augmentation of the distinguished successes in science already attained by so many of your fellow countrymen.

Each fellowship will be worth 400 rupees a month and will be tenable in the first instance for two years, with a possibility of extension up to three years. In addition there will be a grant for research expenses to be made to the fellowship-holders according to their needs of special apparatus and materials. For this purpose the National Institute will have at their disposal an average of 600 rupees per annum for each fellowship.

There will be a grant of 13,200 rupees a year to the National Institute for five years to enable them to pay for administration and the travelling expenses of such fellows of the institute as may be selected to visit the fellowship-holders at their universities or institutions.

The fellowships will be open to persons, irrespective of sex, race or religion, resident or domiciled in India (British India or the States), and under thirty-five years of age.

PLANT BREEDING AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE Cooperative Grange League Federation Exchange, Inc., with headquarters at Ithaca, New York, has made available to Cornell University, through and