

SCIENCE

VOL. 79

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1934

No. 2059

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00

Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

DOCTOR WILLIAM H. WELCH.¹ 1850-1934

By Dr. SIMON FLEXNER

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

No greater honor could be paid a pupil of Doctor Welch than the invitation extended to me to take part in these exercises in memory of Doctor Welch. The honor is, however, attended on my part by a feeling of uncertainty and even embarrassment in speaking of Doctor Welch's many-sided nature before an audience made up of his close friends and colleagues. Doctor Welch spent fifty years in your

midst; he reached the full development of his extraordinary powers among you; and he became the leading citizen of Maryland, guiding and participating in the beneficent undertakings which have taken place in the state during much of that time.

Doctor Welch's merits could not long remain concealed. Modest beyond most men in his opinion of himself, he soon became a national and then an international figure, exercised an amazing influence in raising the standards and proficiency of higher education; and, having happily been granted length of life beyond the ordinary, he was fêted and celebrated on at least three memorable occasions: in Baltimore on his sixtieth and seventieth birthdays, and in Washington on his eightieth birthday.

The last occasion was unique in the history of tributes paid to a scientist. I need not remind you

¹ An address delivered at the memorial meeting to Doctor Welch held at the University Club, Baltimore, on May 22, 1934. Doctor Welch was born at Norfolk, Connecticut, on April 8, 1850, and died in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, on April 30, 1934. A biographical sketch of Doctor Welch, by the author, is included in "Papers and Addresses," published on his 70th birthday, in 1920. It may be consulted for a fuller and more systematic account of the main incidents of Doctor Welch's professional life. The sketch was reprinted in SCIENCE, 1920, Vol. lii, 417. A brief summary is also available in "American Men of Science," 5th edition, 1933.

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