

FREDERICK TILNEY

WITH the death of Dr. Frederick Tilney, on August 7, the American Museum lost a faithful friend and its staff an esteemed colleague. Dr. Tilney was appointed in 1932 to the honorary post of research associate in the department of comparative and human anatomy, but for several preceding years he had cooperated with the departments of vertebrate paleontology and comparative anatomy, making researches pertaining to the brains of fossil mammals and of prehistoric man. When the museum series of James Arthur annual lectures on the evolution of the human brain was inaugurated in 1932, he delivered the first lecture. During the past year he had planned a comprehensive research program, centering more of his endeavors than previously at the museum.

In the larger world of science and medicine, Dr. Tilney was among the few eminent neurologists. His more formal activities were those of practicing physician, consultant in neurology to several hospitals, professor of neurology and neuroanatomy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and medical director of the Neurological Institute of the New York Medical Center. A number of important research projects were actuated or directed by him. His enthusiasm for investigation led him to make significant and outstanding contributions, not only in the clinical and social aspects of neurology, but in studies of brain development, structure and function; sensory analysis; the evolution of the brain with relation to behavior and intelligence; and also to point out the philosophic implications of such studies. Besides numerous scientific papers published in journals and periodicals, he was the author of three important works on the brain. "The Form and Functions of the Central Nervous System" (in collaboration with Professor H. A. Riley), first published in 1920, serves as one of the more comprehensive text-books on the subject. "The Brain from Ape to Man," a monumental work in two volumes, published in 1928, is a comparative study of the brains of man and other primates, focused to illuminate the evolution and development of the human brain. "The Master of Destiny," published in 1930, is a popular presentation of the evolutionary history of the human brain—"a biography of the brain"—with some chapters of estimates, judgments and evaluations.

Aside from his scientific work, Dr. Tilney was a scholar in the liberal sense, with an eager interest in the arts and humanities. He was modest, simple, direct and sincere. Perhaps even more than for his work he was respected for unusual personal qualities. His

colleagues, associates and acquaintances came to regard him with esteem and affection because of his inspiring courage, his wisdom and his gentleness. His superb life will endure in his achievements, but also in the hearts of his friends. His character seems peculiarly well portrayed by the following passage from Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, for whose observations he had remarked pleasure and respect:

One man, when he has done a service to another, is ready to set it down to his account as a favor conferred. Another is not ready to do this, but still in his own mind he thinks of the man as his debtor, and he knows what he has done. A third in a manner does not even know what he has done, but he is like a vine which has produced grapes, and seeks for nothing more after it has once produced its proper fruit. As a horse when he has run, a dog when he has tracked the game, a bee when it has made the honey, so a man when he has done a good act, does not call out for others to come and see, but he goes on to another act, as a vine goes on to produce again the grapes in season. . . .

GEORGE PINKLEY

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. THOMAS LYTTLETON LYON, professor emeritus of agronomy at Cornell University, died on October 7 at the age of sixty-nine years.

JOHN WILLIAMS DAVIS, of Petersburg, Va., consulting engineer with the Atmospheric Nitrogen Corporation and the Solvay Process Company, known for his work on the separation of helium from natural gas and on nitrogen fixation, died on October 4 at the age of fifty-one years.

THE Yale University School of Medicine has arranged an exhibition in recognition of the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Herman Boerhaave, who occupied the chairs of clinical medicine, botany and chemistry at the University of Leyden during some twenty years of his life. The books written by Boerhaave which are on exhibition come from the library of Dr. John F. Fulton, Sterling professor of physiology. The exhibition will be left in place until October 15 in the foyer of Sterling Hall of Medicine. There is exhibited the first edition of Boerhaave's "Institutiones Medicae," published in 1708, which for the first time established physiology as an academic discipline in the medical curriculum. "Institutiones Medicae" was written by Boerhaave to give his students a background of knowledge of normal function; in the work he introduces the term "physiology" in its modern connotation.