

first as its chairman and later as chairman of its Medical Fellowship Board. With the foundation of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium he was appointed exchange professor from Columbia University to Belgian Universities (1926-27); from 1932 to 1936 he served as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Research of the Leonard Wood Memorial. He was a Commander of the Order of the Crown of Belgium and received an honorary Sc.D. degree from George Washington University in 1932. At a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D. C., held in April, 1939, Dr. Gay was made a member of this society.

It would be difficult to say whether Gay's contributions to science, brilliant as they were, or the unforgettable part he played as an inspiring teacher and counselor were foremost in helping him to win the unique distinction that was his. A man of rare culture and outspoken personality, he would naturally imbue his lectures with an air of scholarly refinement that could not fail to make a deep impression on young medical students. But his presentation had also an unusual eloquence, an originality and facility of expression which made it an esthetic pleasure to listen to him. He was truly master of the printed and the spoken word. For there was in Gay's make-up a strong artistic impulse that often helped him to bridge the gap between intellectual skepticism and intuitive vision. This artistic talent, which found its natural outlet in literature and poetry, undoubtedly was a great creative force in Gay's productivity. At the peak of his life, it led him once to formally pose the question whether one good sonnet might, perhaps, not be worth more than a sheaf of scientific papers. A man with such gifts of mind and soul could not help but attract a wide circle of devoted friends and associates. This affectionate regard, which all who knew him intimately learned to share for Dr. Gay, was sometimes difficult to fathom for others whose contact with him was only brief. At first sight he often seemed cool and aloof, perhaps even introverted. His nature had in it a certain shyness, characteristic of all great men, which did not permit him the easy approach in establishing human relations. Coupled with this was an utter sincerity and fearless insistence on the rightness of certain principles—to which he sometimes referred as his New England conscience—which may occasionally have colored his decisions with an arbitrary note. Mistaken superficial impressions of this kind, however, can not do justice to the warm-hearted character that was capable of forging such strong bonds of affection with those who were close to him.

Had he lived but a little longer, there might have been a greater measure of outward perfection in his life even though his work was done, by his own decision. Earlier in the year he had made known to his

associates his intention to retire from active service after a contemplated year's leave of absence. He had looked forward to a few quiet years at his beautiful country home, in pursuit of hobbies and in happy enjoyment of family life. Fate decided differently for him. He had not been seriously ill, except for recurring anginoid attacks during the last year or two. He passed away in his sleep, quietly, we hope painlessly. Death had gently shut the door upon a full life.

CLAUS W. JUNGEBLUT

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

#### WILLIAM R. PERKINS

PROFESSOR W. R. PERKINS, vice-director, emeritus, of the Mississippi State Experiment Station, died on August 21 after forty-eight years of notable activity in agricultural work in three states, Mississippi, South Carolina and Louisiana. After graduation from the State College of Mississippi in 1891, he was employed as chemist in the Experiment Station until 1893, when he became agronomist in the Station and professor of agronomy in the college for the following seventeen years. In 1910 he was called to Clemson College, South Carolina, where he remained two years. For the next three years he determined to put in practice the facts which he had found in chemistry and in agronomy and to try out the theories which he had formulated during the years of his teaching and experimenting. Thus he returned to Mississippi where he demonstrated in the practical operation of a farm the soundness of his factual knowledge and of some of his theories. But the educational authorities would not let him follow his natural desires, and in 1915 he was called to the Louisiana State University as forage crop specialist for the extension department. Later, he became director of the extension department, a position which he filled with marked success until in 1928, when he came back to his native state as assistant director of the South Mississippi Experiment Station at Poplarville. In 1930 he was made director of the state system of branch experiment stations and, finally, vice-director of the State Experiment Station at the State College.

Professor Perkins retired from his administrative duties at the age of 70, but continued his activities until illness prevented further work. He was engaged in gathering data and compiling a history of the Experiment Station with which he became officially connected six years after its establishment in 1885.

Professor Perkins was of a modest and retiring disposition, but his knowledge of the different phases of practical agriculture was broad and profound. He was widely known in the southern states for his work as an agricultural chemist, agronomist and administrator in extension and experiment stations. He early recognized the economic futility of a one-crop system, cot-

ton, and the distress to which it would finally lead southern agriculture. He saw the boundless possibilities in the growing of forage crops and the production of live stock under the most favorable climatic conditions in this country. In and out of season, he counseled conservation of the soil and diversification of agriculture.

He was much sought for his advice and counsel in all phases of agricultural work, for he was the kindest of men, always ready to help to the full extent of his ability. He was a staunch and loyal friend to all who were earnestly striving to do their part in the world's work. The writer has known Mr. Perkins for more than forty years and during all that time we have known him to stand unflinchingly for the truth, even at times when it endangered his position to do so. If pressure to the contrary became too great he quietly stepped aside without recrimination, rather than to truckle to unwise dictators or to pernicious politics. Southern agriculture has lost a zealous advocate, an able administrator, a careful student and a just man.

GLENN W. HERRICK

## RECENT DEATHS

SIGMUND FREUD died in London on September 23. He was eighty-three years old.

CHARLES F. SHAW, professor of soil technology at the University of California, died suddenly on September 12 at the age of fifty-eight years.

THOMAS D. RICE, senior soil scientist of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on August 23 at the age of sixty-one years.

L. W. FORMAN, superintendent of experiments in soils and research assistant professor in the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Iowa State College, died on September 9 at the age of fifty-eight years.

ANDREW CLAUDE DE LA C. CROMMELIN, for thirty-six years a member of the staff of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, known for his work on comets and minor planets, died on September 20 at the age of seventy-four years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE EVACUATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

IN its issue for September 12, the *London Times* reports that next term students of the University of London will be scattered over various parts of the United Kingdom. Arrangements were almost complete for the evacuation of the whole of the university, and it was hoped to begin the new term early in October. Meanwhile the administrative offices will remain at the Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green.

An attempt has been made, wherever possible, to move the whole of each college to its new home, and other universities have cooperated with London in completing its arrangements.

University College is the only one which had been unable to find accommodations for all its students in one place. The men are going to the University of Wales, Aberystwyth; the women medical students to Sheffield, and other women students to Wales.

King's College, which has decided to discontinue its courses in Spanish, journalism, psychology and chemical engineering and its evening classes, is going to Bristol.

Other colleges are going to the following places:

King's College of Household and Social Science, Wales.  
Queen Mary College, Cambridge.  
Institute of Education, University College, Nottingham.  
School of Oriental Studies, Cambridge.  
Goldsmiths' College, Nottingham.

Westfield College for Women, Oxford.  
College of Pharmaceutical Society, Wales.  
Bedford College. Not yet decided.  
Imperial College of Science and Technology, Edinburgh.  
The Mining Department is moving to Camborne, Cornwall.

The medical schools are going to the following centers:

St. Bartholomew's Hospital and College, London, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to Cambridge.  
Guy's and St. Thomas's to Oxford.  
Middlesex to Bristol.  
St. Mary's to Manchester.  
London School of Medicine for Women to Aberdeen and St. Andrews.  
King's College Medical School to Glasgow.

### CHEMICAL IMPORTS OF THE UNITED STATES

IN the United States, according to a report of the Chemical Division of the Department of Commerce, imports of chemicals and related products, including gums, resins, drying oils and drying seeds, increased steadily during the first half of the current year and recorded a gain of 18 per cent. over receipts of such products in the corresponding months of 1938.

Receipts for these materials reached a total value of \$90,000,000 in the current year period, against \$76,473,000 in the corresponding months of 1938, with fertilizer materials making up 24 per cent. of the total;