

laboratory and by the number of her students who continued in psychology.

Hers was strictly an undergraduate department. As far as graduate study was concerned she was a proponent of coeducation. She wrote in her autobiography, "I deprecate graduate study for women at any but coeducational universities." True to her convictions, she encouraged her students to go to such universities for their final training. Many did, and wherever they went—to California, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard (Radcliffe), Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio State, Yale—they made splendid records.

Professor Washburn's life and work should be an inspiration to women as it is a testimonial to the value of the equality of educational opportunity for which she determinedly strove.

KARL M. DALLENBACH

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

OSCAR HENRY PLANT

ON October 1, 1939, Dr. Oscar Henry Plant, professor of pharmacology in the College of Medicine of the University of Iowa, apparently in good health and at the height of his career, passed away suddenly, following an attack of coronary insufficiency. He is mourned as a teacher, a scientist and a man.

Dr. Plant was born at Lawrence, Kansas, on September 30, 1875, the only son of Thomas Henry and Anna Stewart Plant. Early in his boyhood his family moved to East Texas. As educational facilities there were limited, he spent his winters with his grandparents in Topeka, Kansas, where he attended the public schools.

Dr. Plant joined his father when the latter removed to Galveston, and his high-school work was completed in that city. At the age of fourteen he determined to enter the field of medicine. With this object in view, he spent all his spare time and vacations working as an assistant to a Galveston pharmacist. This experience was a factor in directing his interest toward the field of pharmacology, to which he contributed so much in his later years. He entered the Medical School of the University of Texas in 1897 and graduated with the class of 1902, being compelled to drop out for one year to replenish his finances.

When a senior in medicine, Dr. Plant was selected by Dr. W. S. Carter, then professor of physiology, as an instructor in that department. To Dr. Carter's help and influence may be attributed his choice of a teaching career and the inspiration for his great success.

After graduation, Dr. Plant entered upon a five-year period of active practice in Galveston, retaining, however, his instructorship in physiology. In 1907 he decided to follow teaching as a career and became assistant professor of physiology.

Prior to this time instruction in pharmacodynamics had been carried on by the lecture and text-book method. Realizing a deficiency in this method, Dr. Plant undertook, on his own initiative, to conduct experimental demonstrations of the action of drugs on animals. His resourcefulness and ingenuity in this important field were always a source of wonder to his associates. His experiments were always worked out to the minutest detail, so that students never had any difficulty in properly performing the laboratory work. His most noteworthy contribution to research while at Texas was a study of fat absorption from Thiry-Vella loops, published in the *American Journal of Physiology*.

In 1911 Dr. Plant was called to the University of Pennsylvania as instructor in pharmacology under Dr. A. N. Richards. He was advanced to an assistant professorship in 1914 and to the rank of professor in 1918. He was associated with Dr. Richards in the well-known research on kidney function carried on by Dr. Richards and his colleagues.

In 1920 Dr. Plant was appointed professor and head of the department of pharmacology at the University of Iowa, in which position he continued until his death. The facilities for the laboratory teaching in pharmacology were very meager, so with characteristic energy he set about organizing the courses and building up what became in a comparatively short time one of the outstanding teaching laboratories of the United States. At the same time he developed an extensive research program. His outstanding contributions were studies of the action of morphine on the alimentary tract and his fundamental work on the problem of morphine addiction. Other contributions were studies on the cardiac action of camphor and a series of papers on the effects of carminatives.

Dr. Plant was a member of the American Physiological Society and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He was treasurer of the latter society from 1929 to 1934, vice-president from 1935 to 1936 and was elected president in 1939. He was also a member of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was intensely interested in all organized scientific activities and gave his unstinted time and devotion to their welfare. His election to the presidency of the American Pharmacological Society is best proof of the high esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in the society. For the past few years he served on the Board of Editors of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* and the *Proceedings* of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. Papers submitted to him for criticism always received the most careful attention. In addition to his many other duties, he devoted much

time during the past year in directing the preparation of a Formulary for the University Hospital, copy of which was distributed to the various departments the day before he died.

In spite of all his many official duties, Dr. Plant found time for many outside interests. He was keenly interested in bird life, wood carving, fishing and stamp collecting. He was always immensely thrilled by the sight of the first migrant birds in the spring and spent many hours in the City Park with his field glasses.

In 1904, Dr. Plant was married to Ella Mary Beissner, of Galveston. She and their son William are the only direct relatives to survive him. Although he had only one son of his own, he often said that there were former students all over the United States who were like sons to him.

Dr. W. S. Carter, under whom Dr. Plant began his career, testifies to his character and personality in these words:

His relations with the students were always most pleasant. He understood their difficulties and was most patient and sympathetic in helping them. He endeared himself to his students and to his colleagues, so that he commanded at all times the highest respect and admiration of those who knew him.

His delightful personality, unusual ability, faithful and enthusiastic devotion to duty, and his loyalty to his friends, all contributed to a warm friendship which I prized very highly and which lasted throughout his lifetime. His death is a great loss to his many friends, as well as to his family and to the university which he served so well.

Those who were associated with Dr. Plant at the University of Iowa feel that Dr. Carter's tribute expresses the feeling of all his colleagues, friends and students. His loss will be keenly felt in the university and the community, and he and his work will not soon be forgotten.

E. G. GROSS
I. H. PIERCE

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. ROYAL N. CHAPMAN, dean of the Graduate

School of the University of Minnesota since July, died on December 2. He was fifty years old. Dr. Chapman resigned last year as director of the experiment station at the Pineapple Producers Cooperative Association, of Honolulu, to return to Minnesota, where he was formerly chief of the division of entomology and economic zoology of the School of Agriculture of the university.

DR. SENECA EGBERT, emeritus professor of hygiene at the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, known especially for his work in public health, died on December 6. He was seventy-six years old.

BENJAMIN WALLACE DOUGLASS, formerly state entomologist of Indiana, died on December 6 at the age of fifty-seven years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Arthur P. Beddard, chairman of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, formerly lecturer in medicine in Guy's Hospital, London.

DR. VIGGO CHRISTIANSEN, formerly professor of neurology at Copenhagen and president of the Third International Neurological Congress, died suddenly on November 3.

CHARLES VALLIANT, of Paris, known for his work as a radiologist, died on December 4 at the age of sixty-seven years.

PROFESSOR UGO MONDELLO, of Florence, Italy, seismologist, formerly director of Ardenza Observatory, died on December 3 at the age of sixty-one years.

THE Louisiana Iris Conservation Society held a memorial meeting at Tulane University on September 29 as a tribute to the work of Dr. John K. Small, who until his death on January 20, 1938, was chief research associate and curator at the New York Botanical Garden and who was responsible for the discovery and preservation of many of the native irises of the southern states.

IN a note in SCIENCE, page 533, in regard to a portrait of the late Henry Smith Munroe, formerly dean of the School of Mines of Columbia University, his surname was unfortunately omitted.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MINING EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

IN the annual report of the governing body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, as summarized in the *London Times*, it is stated that mining as a career does not appear to make a great appeal to boys in the English public secondary schools. It is hoped that the provision of certain scholarships may help to spread at schools

knowledge of the interest and advantages of this career, while making it possible for the necessary training to be given to a number of boys who might otherwise be prevented from obtaining it for financial reasons.

The governing body expresses its thanks to mining companies that have contributed £2,700 a year, in the first instance for seven years, to provide scholarships