a year of interneship in the New Haven Hospital. During this first year, he engaged in the practice of medicine, but this he soon gave up to devote his entire time to the work in the school. At this period the fortunes of the school were at low ebb, and for the next fifteen years Dr. Ferris, almost single-handed, taught all the courses in anatomy to the first-year students. He received sporadic help from time to time from practicing physicians, but for long periods he was in the classroom for more than forty hours a week. In spite of this heavy drain on his energy, he was uniformly patient with the adolescent mind, and even sheer stupidity did not ruffle his calm judgment.

His knowledge of anatomy was prodigious and his memory frightening. His lectures are unforgettable. They were delivered quietly, without notes, and were lucid and logical expositions of the facts of anatomy, enriched with frequent references to the problems of clinical medicine. Even the unusually heavy burden of teaching did not quench his interest in fundamental medical science. Precluded from being a prolific producer of scientific articles by his unselfish devotion to the needs of the student, he nevertheless kept alive an eager concern for science. From this interest came occasional papers laboriously and carefully written in such time as he could steal from his teaching duties.

With the advent of Dr. Blumer as dean of the school in 1910, Dr. Ferris's path was made easier with the addition of first one and then two assistants until, at the time of his retirement in 1933, the department had been built up to a personnel of five full-time members. Dr. Ferris was ever unmindful of self and labored constantly to further the interests of his staff. Even though added members made his labors less continuous, yet he always did far more than his share in order that his staff might have time for productive research. He was completely uninterested in fame and fortune, striving always for what he deemed the best interests of the school and its personnel.

Dr. Ferris was one of a group of six great teachers of anatomy in the past generation. With Mall of Johns Hopkins, Piersol of Pennsylvania, Huntington of Columbia, Huber of Michigan, Jackson of Minnesota, stands Ferris of Yale. Profound in their knowledge of anatomy, expert in its exposition and jealous of its traditions, they stood for a concept of anatomy which has practically disappeared from the land. They believed in anatomy as a science, that one could never know too much of it; but they never forgot that anatomy was part of medical science and that the students who went through their hands would eventually be physicians. They believed that anatomy could be reified through examples drawn from the clinic, quite as successfully as from animals used in the experimental laboratory.

With the passing of Dr. Ferris, a chapter is closed; a chapter which can be opened only in memory. To all who knew him, Dr. Ferris will always be remembered as a great anatomist, a great teacher and, greatest of all, a great friend.

H. S. BURR

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ELVIN L. VERNON

AFTER an illness of three months, Dr. Elvin L. Vernon died on September 27, 1940. He is survived by his wife and son.

He was born in Prescott, Washington, in 1908. After attending the University of Alaska for two years, he returned to this country and completed his undergraduate training at Oregon State College, where he received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering in 1928. He went to the University of Washington for some graduate work, then to the University of Wisconsin, where he was in 1932 granted a doctor of philosophy degree in physical chemistry and mathematical physics.

During his years at Wisconsin, he made a theoretical study of solutions of strong electrolytes with H. Falkenhagen, and three papers, on the viscosity and on the dielectric constant of such solutions, were published. For his doctorate thesis, he carried on experimental work with Farrington Daniels on the kinetics of the dissociation of ethyl bromide. The results of this work were later published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society.*

He was awarded a post-doctorate fellowship to continue his research; after completing this, he turned to the field of teaching. Following his earlier experience as assistant in the chemistry laboratories at Wisconsin, he accepted a position with the People's Junior College in Chicago, where he instructed in chemistry and physics.

Later, at Harvard University, he again took up research, with a study in mathematical physics with A. S. Coolidge and H. S. James. A paper "On the Determination of Molecular Potential Curves from Spectroscopic Data" was published, and Dr. Vernon was before his death extending the methods and computations, there applied to the hydrogen molecule, to other elements.

From Harvard he went to the faculty of the City College of New York, and had completed a year there, teaching chemistry, when he was suddenly taken ill.

His ability had been recognized by several honorary societies; he was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Kappa Kappa Psi. He had also joined several professional societies: the American Chemical Society, the American Mathematical Society and the Society of Rheology.

Both in his professional work and in other fields his keen, clear mind made his opinions and studies authoritative. As a teacher, his logical and lucid explanations were excellent; several students have commented to the author on the clarity of Dr. Vernon's presentations. His friends knew him to have complete sincerity and integrity. His keen, dry sense of humor and precision of expression made it an intellectual treat to hear him speak. His thorough training in the three fields of mathematics, physics and chemistry, gave him unusual ability in his varied research work, and enabled him to teach with a breadth of vision.

WORDEN WARING

TULANE UNIVERSITY

RECENT DEATHS

DR. HENRY HURD RUSBY, professor of botany, physiology and materia medica and dean emeritus of the New York College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, died on November 18 at the age of eighty-five years.

FRED E. GLADWIN, chief in research in pomology of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, died on November 16. Mr. Gladwin had been in charge of the station's Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia, N. Y., since 1909.

DR. JOHN P. TURNER, assistant professor of zoology at the University of Minnesota, died on November 11 at the age of thirty-eight years.

PROFESSOR J. FRANKLIN COLLINS, taxonomist and forest pathologist, died on November 15, after a long illness. A correspondent writes: "He would have been seventy-seven years old in the last of December. Professor Collins was assistant professor of botany, curator of the Olney Herbarium and chairman of the department at Brown University until 1911, and from then until his retirement in 1934, he was successively forest pathologist, pathologist and senior pathologist, in charge of the Office of Forest Pathology, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, located at Brown University, which dealt with the diseases of trees and ornamental shrubs. During the latter period he was also lecturer and curator of the herbarium at Brown University."

SIR FREDERIC STUPART, formerly director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, died on September 27 in his eighty-fourth year. A correspondent writes: "Sir Frederic entered the Meteorological Service of Canada just after it was organized, in December, 1872, became director in December, 1894, and retired in July, 1929. He was knighted in June, 1916. He was a past president of the American Meteorological Society, an honorary life member of the Royal Meteorological Society of England and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He issued the first weather forecasts from the Canadian Service and had much to do with the development of the Meteorological Service since its inception until the time of his retirement. He was prominent at the international meteorological meetings held during his term as director, and published many articles, especially on the climatology of Canada."

ERNEST WILLIAM MACBRIDE, since 1919 until his retirement in 1934 professor emeritus of zoology of the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, of the University of London, Strathcona professor of zoology at McGill University from 1897 to 1909, died on November 19. He was seventy-three years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PLANT, SOIL AND NUTRITION LABORATORY BUILDING OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE United States Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory Building which the Federal Government has erected at Ithaca, according to the *Cornell Alumni News,* opened this autumn under the direction of Dr. Leonard A. Maynard, professor of animal nutrition at the university. Some of its staff hold joint appointments with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the university; others are members of the university whose research is being coordinated with that of the laboratory.

Dean Carl E. Ladd, of the College of Agriculture, explains that the laboratory "will attempt to coordinate all present knowledge of vitamins, the effect of minor mineral elements on plants, and the results of lack of essential elements on the health and growth of animals and people. It will, in general, enlarge present knowledge of plant and animal nutrition and project present knowledge into new fields."

Coincidently with its opening, the university announced appointment of Dr. Karl C. Hamner as assistant professor of plant physiology in the department of botany, to be in charge of plant investigations in the laboratory, and of Dr. Gordon H. Ellis as biochemist in the laboratory and assistant professor of biochemistry and nutrition.

Professor Hamner has been for three years a member of the department of botany at the University of Chicago, part of his research dealing with relations of hormones and vitamins to plant growth.

Professor Ellis has been an instructor in animal nutrition, working with Professor Maynard and Professor Clive M. McCay on the relation of diet to age