tation, he demonstrated many of the outstanding traits of his character. He was determined that his idea should have an adequate trial. The difficulties were surmounted with a dogged perseverance which would have achieved results in any line of endeavor. His determination was a predominant factor in the success which was secured. His comradeship when he was an unknown young investigator and his generosity in sharing the credit of the discovery of insulin have placed the writer forever in his debt.

After the discovery of insulin he interested himself in diabetic patients for a time but soon returned to his scientific investigations. With other colleagues he made determined assaults on the walls of ignorance which obscure our view. He contributed to our knowledge of the suprarenal cortex. He established a reputation for himself in cancer research. His laboratory facilitated the studies on silicosis, which may have important practical applications. He was interested in and helped every young man who appealed to him for an opportunity to investigate medical problems.

A detailed account of Banting's contributions to medicine will undoubtedly appear in many medical journals, but the time has not yet arrived when the significance of these findings, which his genius for organization has made possible, can be accurately appraised. He was always interested in the organization of medical research, but from the time he realized that war was imminent, he threw himself heart and soul into this work and so fired the imagination of his colleagues and non-medical friends in all parts of Canada that the torch is sure to burn brightly and to illuminate our general war effort. The present activity in the field of aviation medicine in Canada is due largely to him. It is possible that this, his last work, will rank among his greatest achievements.

Banting deeply appreciated the whole-hearted cooperation unstintingly given by many of our American medical colleagues since the outbreak of the present war. He had many personal friends in the United States and often discussed the first American cases which were treated with insulin in Toronto and the physicians with whom this work brought him so closely in contact.

In spite of his great modesty and somewhat shy disposition he had a great capacity for friendship. His activities on behalf of the National Research Council of Canada and his supreme effort to organize medical research for war purposes made him a host of new friends and admirers, but he was always loyal to his medical classmates of 1917 and to those whose advice and help he had received in his earlier struggles.

Banting was true to his philosophy of life which he, at one time, described in the following simple and effective words:

> It is not within the power of the properly constructed human mind to be satisfied. Progress would cease if this were the case. The greatest joy in life is to accomplish. It is the getting, not the having. It is the giving, not the keeping.
>
> I am a firm believer in the theory that you can do or be anything that you wish in this world, within reason, if you are prepared to make the sacrifices, think and work hard enough and long enough.

C. H. BEST

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

LEVI WALTER MENGEL

ON February 3, 1941, at the age of seventy-two years, Dr. Levi W. Mengel died suddenly of a heart ailment. His passing ended a life dedicated to the establishment and enlargement of a public museum and art gallery for the school-children and citizens of Reading, in devotion to which he forgot or neglected all personal ambitions. He lived, fortunately, to accomplish that feat, for the museum he founded has, through his efforts, become perhaps the world's finest for a city of its size.

Through his activities, travels and correspondence, Dr. Mengel was known throughout the world as an entomologist, collector and museum man. His collection of butterflies ranks with the largest; the assemblage of his specialties, *Erycinidae* and *Morphos,* is acknowledged to be without superior anywhere. He had also built up a large collection of minerals, of stamps, of coins and of postcards. However, these list only the material maintained by himself to the very end; no mention can here be made of the library, entomological, zoological, anthropological, commercial and art specimens accumulated and given by him, years ago, to form the foundations for the institution which he so long directed and so dearly loved.

It was his custom to work without interruption for several years and then take an extended journey, usually for the purpose of consulting some of the world's great collections of Lepidoptera. In this manner he became familiar with the great specialists in his favorite field, and maintained correspondence with them over many years. His collection contains many specimens obtained in exchange from such well-known collectors as Alfred Russel Wallace, Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia and Baron Rothschild.

He was very active in the field of education. One of the reasons for his struggle for this museum was his interest in providing, for the boys and girls of Reading, a place where they could see and examine the objects about which they were taught in the schools.

That his interest in sensory education never diminished is attested by the fact that now, annually, approximately 40,000 pupils receive formal instruction here and are provided with the privilege of examining, individually, specimens of commercial, art and natural history material. His educational activities went much further, for even before his election to the school board in 1939, he was very influential in the determination of local policies.

But, however great his achievements in these various fields may have been, Dr. Mengel meant much more than "scientist" or "educator" to his friends and associates. They knew him as a man whose very life was his work, as one who labored to a late hour nearly every night, who did not know the meaning of holiday, of week-end or of vacation. They all knew him as a man of courage, of great loyalty, steadfast both to his friends and to his ideals and principles. Many of them were acquainted with him as philanthropist and benefactor; how many students were enabled to complete their education, how many persons were assisted through financial difficulties by his generosity, will never be known.

He was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, on September 27, 1868. He entered the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1891. On June 6 of the same year he sailed from Brooklyn as entomologist on an expedition with Admiral Robert Peary to west Greenland. After he had been associated with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia from 1891–93, he joined the teaching staff of the Boys High School of Reading in 1894, becoming vice principal in 1902. It was at this time that he first conceived the idea of a museum and first began acquiring materials for it. Finally, he was given permission by the board of school directors to establish a museum in the Administration Building and in 1915 he was relieved of his teaching duties and made its director. In this capacity he served until his retirement on June 30, 1939, when he was made director emeritus and was succeeded by Earl L. Poole.

LAWRENCE S. DILLON
READING PUBLIC MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

RECENT DEATHS

PROFESSOR EMERITUS RANSOM ASA MOORE, until 1936 professor of agronomy and head of the department of the University of Wisconsin, died on February 26. He was in his eightieth year.

DR. SOLON SHEDD, curator of the Branner Geological Library at Stanford University from 1925 to 1940, died on March 4, at the age of eighty years. He was formerly state geologist of Washington and professor of geology at the Washington State College.

CARY LEROY HILL, associate director of the Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Berkeley, Calif., died on February 26 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. CLAUDE ADELBERT BURRETT, president of the New York Medical College and Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, died on March 3 at the age of sixty-two years.

DR. G. VAN DIJK, of the Royal Meteorological Institute of the Netherlands, died suddenly on December 19. A correspondent writes: "His death will be mourned by his colleagues in all parts of the world by whom he was held in high esteem because of his high scientific attainments and his great personal charm."

Nature reports the death of Father Guido Alfani, the Italian seismologist, aged sixty-four years, and of Dr. Philipp Broemser, professor of physiology and rector of the University of Munich, formerly professor of physiology in the University of Basle, at the age of fifty-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

ACCORDING to the annual report of Dr. George W. Bachman, director of the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan under the auspices of Columbia University, a new division of public health has been established.

Funds for the maintenance of the department will be derived from an appropriation granted to Puerto Rico under the National Social Security Act. The department will function in cooperation with the Insular Department of Health, the University of Puerto Rico, the DeLamar Institute and the United States Public Health Service. The establishment of this new division of studies is the culmination of years of careful planning, followed by a series of conferences with the authorities representing the cooperating organizations.

Dr. Bachman reports that in spite of a lack in necessary personnel and the means to meet a number of new problems, the work of the school, which was founded in 1926, has progressed rapidly in the past year. Special emphasis was placed on the research programs, even though plans were outlined for a broader teaching schedule.

The University Hospital, opened last March after a three-year period of reconstruction, now meets all standard requirements of modern hospitalization and