esting ceremony. This manifestation was in the form of a beautiful and specially bound copy of Newton's "Principia," presented by the Royal Society of London to the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Accompanying this volume there was an original draft of a letter by Newton to Prince Alexander Menshikov, acquainting the latter with his election into the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1714. The prince was the first Russian to be elected to the Royal Society.

OBITUARY

CHARLES BENEDICT DAVENPORT

CHARLES BENEDICT DAVENPORT was born in Stamford, Conn., on June 1, 1866, and died on February 18, 1944, at the age of 77. He was tutored by his father, a former teacher, until he was fourteen years old. At that age he entered the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, where he received the B.S. degree in 1886. During the following year he was a member of the engineering corps engaged in surveying the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad. He entered Harvard in 1887, received an A.B. in 1889 and a Ph.D. in 1892. At Harvard he served as assistant in zoology from 1887 to 1893 and as instructor from 1893 to 1899. In the latter year he became assistant professor of zoology at the University of Chicago and was associate professor there from 1901 to 1904. He was director of the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor from 1898 to 1923. In 1904 Dr. Davenport was appointed director of the newly established Department of Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution of Washington, at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N. Y. This post he held for thirty years, till his retirement in 1934.

Dr. Davenport early became one of the world's leaders in the new science of genetics. In three different ways he made important contributions to science: by investigation of biological phenomena, more particularly of the laws of heredity in domestic animals and man; by the organization of facilities for research upon animal, plant and human heredity; and by the publication of many books and monographs on heredity, anthropology and statistical methods in biology. In the earlier part of his career he gave particular attention to experimental morphology, to the statistics of variability, to the role of water in the growth of organisms, to the acclimatization of organisms to poison and heat, and to kindred questions regarding the lower animals. Later, however, his studies were conducted wholly on higher vertebrates and man. In 1910, at Cold Spring Harbor, he organized the Eugenics Record Office, a clearing house for data on inheritable traits of American families and for giving advice to individuals on marriage and to states on defective communities. The facilities of the Record Office led to the discovery of the method of heredity of epilepsy in man, how it is produced and how in later generations it may be prevented; also, to the method of inheritance of eye color, hair color, skin pigmentation and other characteristics in man. These studies were preceded by his purely experimental studies conducted on poultry, sheep and canaries. His studies on a very wide variety of animal and human materials notably increased our knowledge of the role of the genes in animal and human development.

During two to four decades Dr. Davenport served as editor or associate editor of several journals devoted to zoology, genetics, eugenics and anthropology. Among his published books the following are notable: "Experimental Morphology," Parts 1 and 2; "Statistical Methods in Biological Variation"; "Introduction to Zoology" (with Gertrude C. Davenport); "Inheritance in Poultry"; "Inheritance in Canaries"; "Inheritance of Characteristics in Domestic Fowl"; "Eugenics, the Science of Human Improvement by Better Breeding"; "Heredity in Relation to Eugenics"; "Heredity of Skin-Color in Negro-White Crosses"; "The Feebly Inhibited, Nomadism and Temperament"; "Naval Officers, Their Heredity and Development" (with M. T. Scudder); "Physical Examination of the First Million Draft Recruits; Methods and Results" (with Colonel A. S. Love); "Defects Found in Drafted Men" (with Colonel Love); "Army Anthropology" (with Colonel Love); "Body Build and Its Inheritance"; "The Nam Family" (with A. H. Estabrook); "Race Crossing in Jamaica" (with M. Steggerda); "The Genetical Factor in Endemic Goiter"; "How We Came by Our Bodies."

This partial list of his books reflects both the broad interests and the phenomenal energy of the man. Few men have applied themselves more continuously or more ardently to research. Few men could successfully withstand, as he did, the physical stress to which he regularly subjected himself. His retirement as director of a research institution involved no slackening in the pursuit of his own investigations. For Dr. Davenport life was, above all, opportunity for insistent, driving inquiry.

Dr. Davenport was a member of numerous American and foreign scientific societies. In 1923 he received the gold medal of the National Institute of Social Sciences. During World War I, he served as a Major in the Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army. He was active in many civic enterprises, and in 1942 he helped establish the Cold Spring Harbor

Whaling Museum, of which he was a director and curator. Shortly before his death a whale was found on a Long Island beach; Dr. Davenport secured its head, and in the process of preparing the skull for exhibition and study he caught a cold which led to a fatal pneumonia.

Those who intimately knew Charles Davenport well know that he was never too busy to give encouragement, counsel and help to younger biologists who brought their problems to him. This large group of men and women, his neighbors, and his many associates in the institutions which he served so long will long remember the rare kindliness and modesty of the tireless man and scientist who daily strove to bring his tasks to a worthy end.

OSCAR RIDDLE

LEROY SHELDON PALMER
1887–1944

THE passing away on March 8 of Leroy Sheldon Palmer, chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry of the University of Minnesota, came as a great shock to his associates and many friends. Dr. Palmer was stricken almost immediately on reaching his office on February 25th and taken to the University Hospital, where death came to him 12 days later from a coronary occlusion.

Dr. Palmer, born at Rushville, Illinois, on March 23, 1887, was the son of Samuel C. and Annie Goodman Palmer and the twin brother of Robert C. Palmer, now a chemist and director of research in the Newport Company of Pensacola, Florida. After receiving his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri in 1909 he became interested in dairy chemistry, and continuing his studies at that university acquired his M.S. degree in 1911 and his Ph.D. degree in 1913. He served on the teaching staff of the University of Missouri until 1919, during which time he formed a research partnership with the late Dr. C. H. Eckles which carried over into many fruitful years of dairy research at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Palmer came to the University of Minnesota in 1919 as associate professor of dairy chemistry and soon became professor of dairy chemistry and animal nutrition. After the death of Dr. Ross Aiken Gortner in 1942 he was appointed chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry.

On coming to Minnesota, Dr. Palmer at once began his research in dairy chemistry which has dealt with the chemistry of milk and dairy products, their composition as affected by the nutrition of the animal, the physical and colloidal chemistry of milk, the chemistry of rennet coagulation, the churning process and many other theoretical phases of milk chemistry. At this same time he also planned extensive research with the late Dr. C. H. Eckles, of the division of dairy husbandry, in dairy cattle nutrition, especially mineral and vitamin nutrition of bovines. He was still cooperating in this research at the time of his passing. His nutrition studies were not confined to dairy cattle but extended into the broader field of animal nutrition in which research is conducted with the small laboratory animal. He was always more interested in the fundamental problems of nutrition than in those problems which could be quickly solved. Thus research which was conceived in the early twenties is still in progress.

Dr. Palmer's contributions to scientific journals number more than 166, and he had also written or made important contributions to seven books. However, his major contribution to science has been through his students, of whom 19 received the M.S. degree and 42 the Ph.D. degree at this university. The success attained by these students testifies to the truthfulness of this statement. He gave freely and liberally of his time and thought to the problems of his graduate students and was a teacher well loved and respected both by the older postgraduate and the younger undergraduate groups. He possessed not only the method and spirit of true graduate work but also a keen intellect and mature judgment, which made him an invaluable counselor. He was always critical in his examination of scientific research, but his criticism never carried a sting. He never failed to help with suggestion and advice and all those who were associated with him worked with a zest and happiness which could only be inspired by a truly great leader.

Dr. Palmer was selected in 1939 as the first recipient of the Borden Award for outstanding research in the chemistry of milk. The standards governing the presentation of the award are high. Only research of the most significant nature is deemed worthy of the award.

Dr. Palmer's scientific achievements won him membership in the leading scientific societies and honorary fraternities in the country. Besides his service on the staff of the *Journal of Dairy Science* as associate editor, he has acted in the capacity of counselor for the American Chemical Society and chairman of the Minnesota Section of this society, vice-president of the World's Dairy Congress (1923), president of the Minnesota Chapter of Sigma Xi, consultant to the American Medical Association and collaborator in the U. S. Pharmacopoeia Vitamin Standardization Committee (1937).

Dr. Palmer's life was not entirely given to study and research. He loved outdoor life and a round of golf; a day of fishing or a long drive through beautiful country gave him the keenest pleasure. He had a fine appreciation of music and literature and spent many quiet evenings in his home reading and listening to radio broadcasts by our great artists. He liked