

Out of an imposing total of 200 publications in the scientific and technical journals 100 of these appeared jointly with one or the other of his students.

Hibbert received numerous signal honors in recognition of his outstanding attainments. His alma mater in 1911 bestowed upon him the degree of D.Sc., honoris causa, and the University of British Columbia, in 1936, the L.L.D., honoris causa. He was a fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, London; a member of the National Academy of Sciences; and honorary member of the Society of Chemical Industry, London.

In 1917, Hibbert married Beulah Virginia Cole, and much of his success was due in no small measure to her guidance and inspiration.

COLIN G. FINK

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RECENT DEATHS

DR. GEORGE HERBERT MEEKER, dean emeritus of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of

Pennsylvania, died on September 4 at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. BERTRAM G. SMITH, professor of anatomy in the Medical School of New York University from 1921 until his retirement in 1942, since when he has been living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, died on July 30. He was sixty-nine years old.

DR. GEORGE STEPHEN DE RENYI, associate professor of anatomy of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine, died on August 24 at the age of fifty-three years.

DR. THOMAS DARLINGTON, from 1904 to 1910 Health Commissioner of New York City, died on August 23 at the age of eighty-six years.

DR. HOWARD D. MARSH, formerly professor of psychology at the College of the City of New York, and a member of the faculty for thirty-four years, died on August 26 at the age of seventy-four years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NAVY HOSPITAL FOR ASTHMATICS AND ASSOCIATED ALLERGIES¹

BECAUSE of the increased frequency of allergic complaints arising in Naval personnel and the lack of a scientific study of the cause, treatment and control of these patients, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, has allocated a hospital facility devoted in a special manner to the study and care of asthmatics. The hospital is located near the desert region, in the city of Banning, Calif., and an efficient staff under specialists trained in allergy has been assigned. The area was selected because of environmental conditions conducive to the advancement of patients afflicted with allergic diseases. The high altitude, equitable climate, low pollen and mold counts made the facilities ideal for a control study of asthma. Over 200 asthmatic patients are presently admitted to the hospital, and preliminary studies have revealed that these patients may be catalogued into 3 general classes: (1) Those whose allergy (asthma) existed prior to enlistment (EPTE); (2) those in whom it did not exist prior to enlistment (DNEPTE); and (3) those whose asthma did not exist prior to enlistment, although a state of hypersensitivity did exist prior to enlistment (EPTE aggravated). Groups 1 and 2 represent 65 per cent. and 15 per cent., respectively, of the patient load, whereas group 3, 20 per cent., represents cases of hypersensitivity prior to enlistment, although no manifestations of asthma were present until after the patient entered the

¹ Preliminary report.

service. Most of the men had seen service overseas chiefly in New Guinea, the Philippine, Solomon and Admiralty Islands, and approximately 90 per cent. of them had their affliction aggravated by this type of foreign duty.

Although present facilities permit only limited investigation and treatment, more extensive work, particularly regarding offending factors and desensitization studies, are planned for the immediate future.

Current observations of hay-fever patients showed improvement up to 90 per cent., which verifies existing low pollen count in this desert area, whereas the asthmatics have shown improvement in approximately 40 to 50 per cent. Correlation of the patients' daily complaints with pollen and mold counts are under way as well as those relating to temperature and humidity.

As would be expected, the number of sick days for these patients is very high. The stupendous detail work required for testing such a large segment of personnel is apparent. Present plans, however, call for more complete equipment in supplies and personnel. It is hoped that some very substantial conclusions will be forthcoming toward a better understanding and appreciation of the knotty problems associated with asthma and allied allergic conditions.

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