

noon was devoted to an inspection of the new building of the Mellon Institute.

The recipients of honorary degrees were the guests of the university at the annual alumni banquet held at the Schenley Hotel from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. The speakers at this dinner were Dr. Raymond F. Bacon, director of the Mellon Institute, who responded to "The Mellon Institute"; Dr. Walther Riddle, who gave a historical sketch of the department of chemistry of the university; Hon. Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation; Dr. Theodore William Richards, who spoke on "The Practical Use of Research in Pure Science" and extended Harvard's congratulations to Pittsburgh upon the acquisition of the Mellon Institute; and Chancellor Samuel Black McCormick, who completed the toast list with an eloquent response to "The University," in which he stated that the gift of the Mellon Institute had placed a great responsibility upon the University of Pittsburgh as well as having been a priceless acquisition; that the university was ready to meet the responsibility and, he felt sure, would show the donors and the country at large that it would make the most of the great benefaction.

Judge Gary's address was in part as follows:

In humankind there is an element which is interested in, if, indeed, it does not actually enjoy reading or listening to, adverse references to the character or conduct of an individual or association of individuals, and, by reason of this fact, agencies for the collection and distribution of unfavorable comments have become more or less popular. A questionable kind of success is often realized by the individual or the publication whose energies are devoted to frequent and furious personal attack against the standing or the action of others. These efforts sometimes take the form of individual work, investigations by committees or commissions created by the legislatures or congresses, or, in exceptional cases, even by judicial branches of government, such as grand juries, with their inquisitorial power. Oftentimes the investigators are not only utterly incompetent, but they are prejudiced and willfully repress many of the pertinent and material facts. They seek to produce for circulation and criticism only information calculated to bring reproach upon the persons involved in the inquiry. No one is exempt from these criticisms.

Circumstances seem to show that we are approaching the time when the investigator will be investigated; when the criticizer will be criticized; when committees and commissions will be brought before other similar bodies for judgment. It would be interesting to the public if it could be informed of the real motives which have prompted some of the official inquiries, and if it could learn of the unfair methods which have been sometimes pursued, and if it should know the amount of governmental funds which have been appropriated for the use of committees and how they have been disbursed; in fact, if some of those participating could be subjected to the same scrutiny which they have exercised.

The general attitude of the great newspapers of to-day is fair and just. They influence and are influenced by the general public. They reflect the general sentiment. This is most important in considering the future welfare of this country.

If the picture which I have drawn is a true one, then the course before us, which leads to prosperity, success and happiness, is plain and we will pursue it. We must conduct affairs in our charge with the expectation that we shall be criticized.

After the banquet, the new building of the Mellon Institute was thrown open for a reception of friends of the institute. The rooms of the main floor were used for the reception, although the entire building was open for inspection. On the evening of February 27, the first Mellon lecture was delivered by Professor John Jacob Abel, of Johns Hopkins University, in the assembly hall of the institute; Dr. Abel's subject was "Experimental and Chemical Studies of the Blood and Their Bearing on Medicine."

W. A. HAMOR

THE MELLON INSTITUTE OF
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

CHARLES EDWIN BESSEY

THE Botanical Society of Washington at its one hundred and third regular meeting, March 2, 1915, unanimously passed the following resolutions upon the death of Doctor Charles E. Bessey, dean and professor of botany at the University of Nebraska.

WHEREAS, In the recent death of Professor Charles E. Bessey, botany has lost one of its ablest investigators and teachers, one of the pioneers in

the introduction of the present laboratory methods of teaching biology, and

WHEREAS, He was widely known and highly respected by his fellow botanists, and beloved by his numerous students in whose welfare and success he took the keenest personal interest, and

WHEREAS, The death of such a man comes as a personal loss to all American botanists; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Botanical Society of Washington express its deep sense of regret and extend to his family its deepest sympathy in their great bereavement; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this society and sent to the immediate relatives of the deceased and to SCIENCE.

PERLEY SPAULDING,
Corresponding Secretary

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held in the hall of the society at Philadelphia on April 22, 23 and 24, beginning at 2 P.M. on Thursday, April 22.

SIR J. J. THOMSON has been elected president of the Physical Society, London. Prince B. Galitzin has been made an honorary fellow of the society.

THE gold medal of the British Institution of Mining and Metallurgy has been awarded to Dr. Willet G. Miller, geologist of Ontario.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on February 22, Mr. Page, the American ambassador, presented to Dr. Scott Keltie, secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, the Cullum gold medal, awarded to him by the American Geographical Society.

MR. JOHN S. LONGWELL, C.E. (Cornell, '10), of the Reclamation Service, has been awarded the prize given annually by the American Society of Civil Engineers for the best paper by a junior member of the society.

THE Samuel D. Gross prize of the Philadelphia Academy of Medicine for the year 1915 has been awarded to Dr. John Lawrence Yates, Milwaukee, for his essay entitled "Surgery in the Treatment of Hodgkin's Disease." The amount of this prize is \$1,500.

MR. W. H. HOYT, C.E. '90, College of Engineering, University of Minnesota, assistant chief engineer of the D. M. N. Railroad, has been elected president of the Minnesota State Surveyors and Engineers Society.

THE Atlanta Neurological Society was organized February 11, with the following officers: *president*, Dr. E. Bates Block; *vice-president*, Dr. Hansell Crenshaw; *secretary*, Dr. Lewis M. Gaines. The society will hold its meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that Dr. William J. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., was the guest of honor at the Detroit Academy of Medicine on February 23. On February 22, Dr. Mayo was the principal speaker at foundation-day exercises of the department of medicine and surgery at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and on February 24 the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine gave a luncheon in honor of Dr. Mayo, after which he gave an address on "Some General Considerations which influence the Advisability of Surgical Treatment." Dr. Charles H. Mayo was the guest of honor at the twentieth annual banquet of the Kansas City Academy of Medicine, February 27. Dr. Jefferson D. Griffith presided and Dr. Mayo delivered an address on "Why Gastro-Enterostomy Fails to Cure."

THE Harvard University unit for service at the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris left on March 17, to serve until June 30. Members of the unit are: H. Cushing, '95, M.D., A.M., Moseley professor of surgery, as head surgeon; R. B. Greenough, '92, assistant professor of surgery, surgeon and executive officer; R. P. Strong, professor of tropical medicine, bacteriologist; R. B. Osgood, M.D., '99, instructor in orthopedics, orthopedic surgeon; B. Vincent, '98, assistant in surgery, assistant surgeon; W. M. Boothby, '02, lecturer in anesthesia, anesthetist; F. A. Collier, '12, M.D.; E. C. Cutler, '13, M.D.; P. D. Wilson, and M. N. Peterson, '14, M.D., resident surgeons; L. G. Barton, Jr., '12, M.D., surgical assistant; O. F. Rogers, Jr., '12, M.D., medical