

NECROLOGY

Will E. Edington, DePauw University

EDWARD WILLIAM KOCH

Lawrenceburg, Indiana
January 8, 1882

Buffalo, New York
February 9, 1946

The present century has been characterized by tremendous and momentous discoveries that have left no man untouched regardless of whether he realizes it or not. Some of these discoveries like radioactivity, jet propulsion, nuclear fission, insulin and radar have been spectacular and have come out of the laboratory. Not so spectacular but certainly as fundamental have been the discoveries in preventive medicine, sanitation, genetics and surgery, that have led to greatly increased longevity and the virtual extinction of many epidemics common in the past. These have come about through the tremendous expansion in size and standards of medical schools and hospitals, and specializing clinics and laboratories devoted to definite but limited fields of study. From these institutions has come a steady flow of young men and women highly skilled and efficient in administering to and alleviating the ills of suffering mankind. Edward William Koch, Dean of the Medical School of the University of Buffalo for sixteen years and Dean of the Dental School for a shorter period, was one who has done much during the past three decades to raise the standards in medical training and to instill in medical students of his University the ideals of the Hippocratic oath.

Edward William Koch was born on January 8, 1882, at Lawrenceburg, Indiana. After finishing the common schools he entered Indiana University where he remained two years. He then returned to Lawrenceburg to teach science in the high school, succeeding Willis D. Gatch who later became Dean of the Indiana University Medical School. After three years of teaching he reentered Indiana University, received the A.B. degree in 1908 and the A.M. degree a year later, serving in the meantime first as an assistant and later as a teaching fellow in physiology and pharmacology. Entering Rush Medical College he became an M.D. two years later. Following two years of internship at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and the Akron City Hospital, he returned to Indiana University as an instructor in physiology and pharmacology and taught two years. In 1915 he joined the research staff of the Eli Lilly Company and spent the next three years experimenting with the ipecac alkaloids. Exposure to these drugs effected his health and he accordingly accepted the professorship of pharmacology,

in 1918, at the University of Buffalo Medical School, where he remained until his death on February 9, 1946.

The fine executive ability of Dr. Koch was immediately recognized at the University of Buffalo for he was made Secretary of the Medical School the year of his arrival. After ten years in this capacity he was made Acting-Dean, and two years later, in 1930, he became Dean of the Medical School. In 1936 he was also made Dean of the University of Buffalo Dental School, which duty he performed until 1944. He was not a well man during his last five years, but he was never known to complain.

Dr. Koch was an earnest and conscientious teacher and a sympathetic, progressive and efficient executive of sterling integrity who maintained the respect, loyalty and cooperation of his students and colleagues. While his executive duties precluded his doing much research, he nevertheless held research in the highest regard and encouraged it wherever possible by using his influence to secure funds for equipment and apparatus. He was the author of a half dozen papers on medical subjects and joint author of three other papers based on the results of his pharmaceutical work with the Eli Lilly Company.

He was a Fellow of the American Medical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also held membership in Sigma Xi, Alpha Omega Alpha and Nu Sigma Nu, the latter two being Honor medical societies. He joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1914, while an instructor at Indiana University, and was made a Fellow three years later.

Dr. Koch retained his love for Indiana throughout his life. His philosophy of life was kindly and penetrating with a fine sense of humor. He loved to quote Riley, George Ade, Will Rogers, and Kin Hubbard's Abe Martin. Modest and unassuming, tolerant and gracious, never sarcastic, he endeared himself to those who knew him. He was widely known in the medical profession where his contributions to his chosen field are recognized as real and enduring.

RALPH MESCHTER KRIEBEL

Hereford, Pennsylvania

West Lafayette, Indiana

October 12, 1897

March 15, 1946

With the death of Ralph M. Kriebel on March 15, 1946, the Academy and the State of Indiana lost a true naturalist and a real conservationist. He had steadily built up a reputation as a leading conservationist in this and neighboring states, having served for two weeks annually from 1939 to 1945 as a teacher in the Ohio Conservation Laboratory sponsored by Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Conservation, and also for two years in a similar Tennessee teacher training conservation program. His wide knowledge of agriculture, its soil, plants and animals, enabled him to speak with such authority that he was in demand as a lecturer before schools, youth camps and various garden, nature study and conservation organizations.

He was born on October 12, 1897, at Hereford, Pennsylvania, and received his basic education in Perkiomen Academy at Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. He then entered Muhlenburg College, and completed his education at Valparaiso and Columbia Universities. He taught science for one year in Perkiomen Academy and then came to Indiana where he taught science and coached for three years in Kentland High School. He spent seven years as a stone carver and sculptor for the Indiana Limestone Corporation. Joining the United States Conservation Service in 1935, at Bedford, as a biologist and farm planner, he came into contact with the leading botanists, naturalists and conservationists of the State. His fervor and skill in plant collecting had already attracted the attention of Dr. Charles C. Deam, and they became fast friends, the younger man deriving inspiration and insight from the Dean of Indiana botany. At the time of his death Mr. Kriebel had built up one of the best collections of plants of the State in Indiana.

He joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1933 and his first Academy paper appeared in the *Proceedings* for 1934. He published a number of papers on taxonomic botany and conservation. His best scientific work was done in taxonomic botany, and he appeared regularly before the Botany Section of the Academy and the State Society of Taxonomists. From 1940 until the time of his passing he served as a member of the Academy State Flora Committee which kept Deam's *Flora of Indiana* up to date, the reports appearing annually in the *Proceedings*. He served as Chairman of the Taxonomists in 1938, and as Chairman of the Academy Botany Section in 1940. The Academy elected him a Fellow in 1938.

In 1943 he came to Purdue as an extension soil conservation specialist employed jointly by the University and the United States Department of Agriculture, and he served with distinction up to the time of his death.

He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Society of Taxonomists, The Wildlife Society, The Society of American Foresters, The Indiana Audubon Society, and The Indiana Soil Science Society.

"It is impossible for laymen to capture in phrases the spirit that motivated and characterized Ralph Kriebel. His infectious enthusiasm for teaching and preaching all forms of conservation arose from his vivid realization of the unity of man and his environment and from a genuine love of nature." Ralph Kriebel was a scientist in the truest sense of the word and his untimely death is a real loss to the nation.

VINCENT ANTHONY LAPENTA

Naples, Italy
July 4, 1883

Indianapolis, Indiana
April 20, 1946

America owes much to Europe for its scientific and cultural development, and until the present century might be considered a scientific

debtor. This was particularly true in such fields as physics, chemistry and medicine. However, the tremendous industrial developments and intensive exploitation of our resources have resulted in such accumulations of wealth and such standards of living that through philanthropy, state and federal taxation, and the industrial laboratories, America has developed great medical and scientific foundations. Leading European scientists have been induced to come to America and others attracted by the opportunities have come and by their talents have made notable contributions to America's scientific development. One of these latter was undoubtedly the young surgeon, Vincent Anthony Lapenta, who came to the United States in 1907.

He was born in Naples, Italy, on July 4, 1883, and received an Italian education leading to the M.D. degree from the University of Naples in 1906. Following his arrival in the United States he continued his studies at the Harvard Medical School in 1910 and the Illinois Postgraduate Medical School in 1911. He came to Indianapolis in 1911 and began the practice of abdominal surgery. Later he became associated with St. Francis Hospital, in Indianapolis, and was chosen President of its Staff in 1925, and Surgeon in Chief in 1929, and he continued active in this work up to the time of his death.

Dr. Lapenta was deeply interested in chemistry, particularly in its applications to the problems of surgery. In 1917 he made his capital discovery of his Neo-Hemoplastin Serum for the control of hemorrhages, in recognition of which Great Britain conferred upon him in 1922 the honor of Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. His serum has been produced and marketed throughout the world since 1917 by the Parke-Davis Chemical Laboratories, and Dr. Lapenta was a Consulting Biological Chemist for this company for a number of years. He was the holder of five other patents for medical methods and apparatus. He was a regular contributor to the leading medical journals on problems of surgery and the various unusual cases that came under his observation. On account of his scientific achievements his native Italy decorated him in 1939 with the honor Knight Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy. He had also served as the Italian Consul in Indiana for a number of years. Dr. Lapenta was also recipient of the decoration of Knight Commander of the Order of the Crown of Roumania.

He was a member of the Gorgas Memorial Institute and a Fellow of the American Medical Association. He was a member of the Executive Council of the International College of Surgeons, an ex-Chairman of its Board of Examiners and a former Chairman of its Editorial Board. He held membership in various national and state medical and pharmaceutical societies as well as in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He had been a member of the Indiana Academy of Science since 1931 with his interest in chemistry and bacteriology. His hospital duties had prevented his active participation in the work of the Academy, since many of its meetings are held outside Indianapolis.

Dr. Lapenta was not only a fine surgeon and mender of broken bodies, but also a man of broad and tolerant outlook. It was necessary

to know him over a number of years in order to appreciate his personality and to become aware of his patience and kindness in the performance of his duties. The Academy and the State of Indiana should be proud of and grateful for the service rendered to humanity by this great surgeon.

JOHN LYMAN SHEEAN

Superior, Wisconsin
November 27, 1894

Ashland, Wisconsin
April 5, 1945

John Lyman Sheean was Professor of Chemistry and Dean of Men at Northland College, in Ashland, Wisconsin, at the time of his death on April 5, 1945. He was born on November 27, 1894, in Superior, Wisconsin, and after completing the work of the common schools, he entered Macalester College and received the B.S. degree in 1916. He did graduate study at the University of Minnesota in 1923 and in Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1926-27. Following his graduation he was chemist for the United Lead Company in Iowa for four years and then took employment with the Fairview Fluorspar Company in Illinois for a year. In 1924 he went to the Carnegie Institute of Technology as an instructor in chemistry in the College of Engineering where he remained four years. In 1928 he accepted the headship of the Department of Chemistry at Culver Military Institute. He was at Culver three years and then took a position with the Mosanto Chemical Works near Saint Louis. In 1933 he was called to Northland College. However, he maintained a permanent home address at Cloquet, Minnesota.

Mr. Sheean was a very conscientious and effective teacher who vitalized his chemistry teaching with the project method wherever possible. He believed that the method of projects greatly stimulated the student's interest and also helped to equip him for more efficient living and employment, but he considered the project method only as an adjunct to the fundamental laboratory and recitation work. He used these methods with success at the Culver Military Institute and reported on his results at the meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1930. He was the author of several papers on the teaching of high school and college chemistry. He also published one paper on the beginning of electro-chemistry activity and another paper on the History of Chinese Pottery.

Mr. Sheean was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Electro Chemical Society, and the American Association of University Professors. He joined the Indiana Academy of Science in 1930, but as he left the State the following year he was not well known to many Indiana scientists. He presented two papers before the Chemistry Section in 1930, one of which was published in the *Proceedings*.

MILTON M. WILLIAMS

Piketon, Ohio

November 3, 1880

Bloomington, Indiana

April 14, 1946

When the Junior Academy of Science was founded in 1931, one of the charter clubs was the Bloomington Junior High School Club. Its sponsor was Milton M. Williams who continued as its sponsor for the next fifteen years. When the Junior Academy was first organized the officers were chosen from the sponsors and this plan was followed for several years. Mr. Williams was President of the Junior Academy in 1933-1934. At the Fall Meeting in 1934 he presented a plan for a State Constitution for the Junior Academy, but action was not taken that year. He continued to be very active in the work of the Junior Academy and regularly brought members of his Club to the meetings where they presented papers and exhibits. At the meeting in 1939 he gave an address on "What Makes a Live Club."

Mr. Williams was born on a farm near Piketon, Ohio, on November 3, 1880. He came to Bloomington in 1904 to enter Indiana University and was graduated in 1908. While a student in the University he worked during spare hours in the Whetsell Shoe Store, and following his graduation he married Mr. Whetsell's daughter, and at Mr. Whetsell's death a few years later he operated the store as manager. After some years he entered the teaching field and taught for a time at Ellettsville. In 1930 he became a science teacher in Bloomington High School, which position he still held at the time of his death from a heart attack on April 14, 1946.

Mr. Williams was deeply interested in science teaching and was very successful in arousing the interest of his pupils in science work. Some of the exhibits presented by his pupils at the meetings of the Junior Academy were unusually fine and reflected great credit on Mr. Williams. He was a lover of flowers and followed flower raising as a hobby. At one time he had quite an extensive collection of cacti.

The Junior Academy of Science owes a great deal to Mr. Williams for its success, for he pioneered in its work and was most faithful and effective in his cooperation with Dean Enders, the Senior Academy representative. He also influenced a number of young men and women to continue their science study in college and thus his work will continue to live.