

fruit in some of his most quoted papers on the measurements of the intestines. He had a long military service during the war, beginning with the rank of Captain and ending with the rank of Major. He was greatly interested in problems of convalescence and wrote valuable papers on this subject, as well as a book entitled, "Convalescence: Historical and Practical" (1927).

He was a consultant of the Burke Foundation for Convalescents, New York City, and Medical Assistant in Problems of Convalescence at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was also Assistant Physician at the Robert Brigham Hospital in Boston.

John Bryant's genial, happy disposition, his tact and kindness, endeared him to his many patients and enabled him to work wonders with that difficult group

of asthenias affected with gastro-intestinal symptoms. He has written a series of valuable papers on the Intestinal Neuroses.

As you all know, John Bryant was a devoted secretary to our Association for a period of four years (1923 to 1926, inclusive), always painstaking and thorough, doing everything possible to advance the interests and standing of our Association. The careful revision of our Constitution and By-Laws in 1924 was entirely his idea and largely carried out by him. He was a valuable member of our Council and later was elected President. It was a tragedy that this honor came at a time in his life when illness prevented him from presiding at the Annual Session.

The going of John Bryant takes from our Association an active, valuable, and much loved member.

Lafayette Benedict Mendel: An Appreciation*

By

VICTOR C. MYERS, Ph.D., D.Sc.

PALA ALTA, CALIFORNIA

Lafayette Benedict Mendel was born at Delhi, N. Y., February 5, 1872, the son of Benedict and Pauline (Ullman) Mendel, highly respected citizens of Delhi. The town of Mendel's birth was very proud of the record he subsequently made. He was appreciative of this evidence of affection, and continued to return to Delhi for his summers until overtaken by his tragic fatal illness two years ago. He died on December 10, 1935.

Lafayette Mendel's interest in physiological chemistry was aroused by Professor Russell H. Chittenden under whom he took his Ph.D. degree in 1893 at the early age of 21. After serving as an instructor for two years he spent the two following years in various laboratories in Germany on leave of absence, then returned to Professor Chittenden's department at Yale and advanced through the various grades to a full professorship in 1903 and to the newly created Sterling Professorship of Physiological Chemistry in 1920.

Professor Mendel received nearly every honor which could be conferred upon him, a partial list of which will be given. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, an Active Member of this Association from 1907-1930, an Honorary Member since 1930, and numerous other scientific societies both here and abroad. He served as President of the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Institute of Nutrition. He was a member of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and of the Committee on Foods of the American Medical Association. He served the U. S. Government in many advisory capacities during the World War, and also represented it on the Interallied Food Commission abroad. He was a member of President Hoover's White House Conference on Child Welfare and Development. He served as an Editor of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Journal of Nutrition*, *Chemical Reviews* and was a frequent unofficial con-

tributor to the editorial pages of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He gave the Herter lectures at New York University, the Hitchcock lectures at California, the Schiff lectures at Cornell, the Cutter lectures at Harvard and twice lectured be-



LAFAYETTE BENEDICT MENDEL

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fore the Harvey Society. In 1934, the Chemists' Club of New York awarded him the Conne medal for outstanding chemical service to medicine. He received the honorary degree of Sc.D. from Michigan and Rutgers and that of LL.D. from Western Reserve University. In his own University he served as a member of the Governing Board of the Sheffield Scientific School and of the Board of Permanent Officers of the Graduate School and School of Medicine. On his sixtieth birthday his students and friends presented his portrait to the University, the former contributing to an anniversary number of the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* which was dedicated to him.

Despite these many honors, Mendel's claim to greatness probably rests more upon his remarkable ability to train others than upon any other quality. I am sure that he took greater pride in this than anything else. When a student undertook a research problem, Mendel did not select some topic in his own field of research, but tried to help the student pick a problem which might be the beginning of the student's own ilfe work. He was most unselfish in this as he was in the manner of publication. By his own unique methods he aroused and stimulated the student during the investigation. Above all he taught the student to think for himself. Good work received suitable recognition, and although mistakes and errors were not directly criticized, they never missed his eagle eye. Mendel kept in constant touch with his students after they left his laboratory, and very few there were who did not frequently turn to him for advice, which was always given promptly and cheerfully. He wrote a beautiful and very legible hand and for many years took care of his personal correspondence in this way. It was a

great incentive to receive one of those witty and stimulating letters from master and friend.

Ninety-two students received the Ph.D. degree under his guidance, and these may be found actively trying to follow the example of their teacher in some of the most representative institutions of this country.

Although, in Professor Mendel's later years, nutrition may be considered his chief interest, he was always much interested in gastro-enterology, perhaps in part because of his training under Chittenden and Heidenhain. Numerous investigations in his laboratory, particularly in the earlier years, touch upon almost all phases of digestion and absorption. He was also much interested in the clinical application of this work and was frequently consulted by gastro-enterologists. As a student, I recall his referring to the work of Meltzer, Hemmeter and Einhorn, and to this Association.

For more than twenty years, however, his interest largely was in the field of nutrition. In 1919 he presented a paper before this Association on "Food Factors in Gastro-enterology," in which he stated: "It seems to me . . . that a discipline which relates to the normal and pathological conditions of the digestive organs cannot fail to find some interest in the rôle of the foods, for the transformation and transport of which these organs exist, or in the phenomena of nutrition for which the function of digestion is an indispensable preparation." In this way he related most of the work of his later years to gastro-enterology.

Few men exerted so wide an influence as Lafayette Mendel; very few have trained so many to "carry on" when they are gone. This Association may well be proud to have had Mendel as both an Active and an Honorary Member.

Harlow Brooks*

By

WILLIAM GERRY MORGAN, M.D.
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dr. Harlow Brooks was born at Medo, Minnesota, on March 31st, in 1871. He received his preliminary education in the High School of Medo, and later graduated from the University of Oregon. In 1895 he received the degree M.D. from the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and from the same School received the honorary degree of M.Sc. in 1930. He took post graduate study at the University of Freiberg, and at the Polyclinic in Munich. He was Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy at the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1895; Instructor of Histology and Embryology, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1895-98; Research Fellow in Bacteriology, New York State Hospitals, Pathological Institute, 1887-1920; Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University Medical College, 1922-1929.

At the time of his death Dr. Brooks was Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University Medical College; Visiting Physician, Bellevue Hos-

pital; Consulting Physician, New York City, French, New York Polyclinic, Union, Fifth Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey, Beth Isreal, Greenwich, Mount Vernon, Saint John's, Southside (Bay Shore) Flushing, Jamaica, Bronxville and Montefiore Hospitals, Hospital for Joint Diseases and Norwegian Lutheran, Deaconess's Home and Hospital. His World War record: Major, Lieut. Colonel and Colonel, M.C.U.S.A.; Chief of Medical Service Base Hospital, Camp Upton; Chief Consultant in Medicine First Army Corps, A.E.F.; Senior Consultant in Medicine, Second Army Corps, A.E.F.; Awarded Distinguished Service Medal, General Citation. He was a member of the American Legion and of the Association of Military Surgeons.

He was a member of the Phi Alpha Sigma fraternity; Member of the Harvey Society, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, Association of American Physicians, American Medical Association, American Gastro-enterological Association, Medical Society of the State of New York, New York County

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