

BIOGRAPHY

Psychology Pioneer Dies

Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, dean of American psychologists, editor and founder of several scientific journals, and contender for freedom of teaching, dies at age of 83.

► ONE of the outstanding figures in American science passed from the stage where he had taken many important roles, with the death in Lancaster, Pa., early on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 20, of Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, at the age of 83. Pioneer in experimental psychology, contender for freedom of teaching, publisher of half-a-dozen scientific journals, dominant figure in the councils of leading learned societies, successful businessman and executive, Dr. Cattell will be remembered with respect by thousands of persons whose careers he has influenced.

Dr. Cattell was born at Easton, Pa., on May 25, 1860. He was graduated from Lafayette College in 1880. He carried on his graduate studies at the University of Leipzig, in the days of real German greatness in the field of scholarship, receiving his Ph.D. in 1886. There he was indoctrinated in the then new and revolutionary concept of psychology as a science of experiments and measurements, rather than an introspective examination of the state of one's own consciousness. After one-year lectureships at the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr College (1887) and Cambridge University (1888), he held the world's first professorship in psychology, at the University of Pennsylvania, from 1888 to 1891. In 1891 he went to Columbia University, where he remained for a long and active teaching and research career, until 1917. Men who studied under him there have given the science of psychology in America its main outlines.

Career enough for even an extraordinary man, this high university post was not enough to occupy all the energies of Dr. Cattell. He took over the editorships of three struggling journals, *Science*, *The Scientific Monthly* and the *American Naturalist*, and made successes of them. *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* are now the official publications of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He founded two professional journals himself: the *Psychological Review* and *School and Society*. He also began the publication of *American Men of Science*, which is the scientist's *Who's*

Who, and of a similar directory of schoolmen, *Leaders in Education*.

Among his business ventures have been the Psychological Corporation, of New York, and the Science Press, of Lancaster.

Dr. Cattell was for many years a dominant figure in the governing councils of key scientific organizations, notably the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Research Council. Most of the many societies to which he belonged honored him with election to their presidencies at one time or another. Among these were the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, the American Society of Naturalists, the Eugenics Research Association, the Society of Sigma Xi and the New York Academy of Sciences.

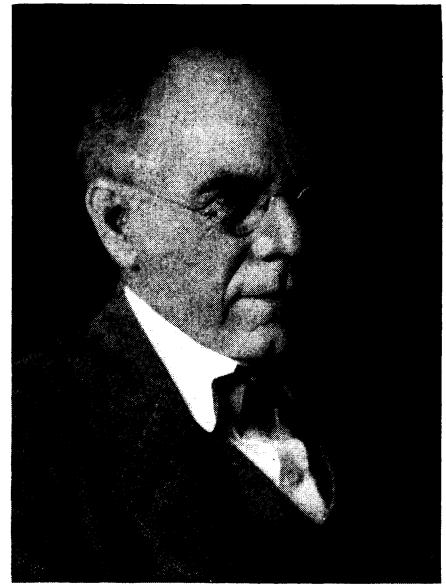
Dr. Cattell was a member of the board of trustees of Science Service since its foundation in 1921, and was its president from 1928 until 1937.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1944

AERONAUTICS

New Black Widow Plane Powerful Night Fighter

► CARRYING a deadly bite like its dangerous namesake, the Black Widow, a powerful night fighter plane announced recently by the War Depart-



DR. J. McKEEN CATTELL

ment, is equipped with the latest devices. It may be assumed that, in common with all night fighters now in use by the various belligerent powers, aircraft detection equipment is included.

The deadly bite of the new night fighter may be felt by the Axis in the not-too-distant future, authorities predict.

Designated as the P-61, the Black Widow is heavily armored and armed, is powered by two Pratt and Whitney engines, possesses fairly long range, effective speed and climb characteristics. Exact details of the fighter's performance, of necessity, are secret.

More than three years of extensive research and development went into this effective aerial night combat weapon. Northrop Aircraft, Inc., of California was given the contract for the first model of the plane in January, 1941.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1944

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