

GENERAL SCIENCE

Death of Robert Scripps Is Loss to Scientific Research

Trustee of Science Service, He Also Was Active In Support of Scripps Institution of Oceanography

ROBERT SCRIPPS' passing robs science of one of its most consistent supporters, who continued the work of his father, the late E. W. Scripps, and of his aunt, the late Ellen Browning Scripps. His death occurred on March 3, 1938.

As a trustee of Science Service, he took a lively interest in the work and progress of this institution for the popularization of science, which had been founded by his father in collaboration with Prof. William E. Ritter of the University of California.

Equally unstinting was his support of scientific research, particularly at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif., which his aunt and his father had founded shortly before the World War.

Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, recently retired director of the Scripps Institution, when informed of the death of Mr. Scripps, said:

"I am deeply shocked and grieved to hear the news. He has been the principal supporter of the Scripps Institution ever since his father and his aunt died. He was unswerving in his loyalty."

Less than a year ago, Mr. Scripps presented to the Institution a yacht, formerly the property of the noted screen actor Lewis Stone, which had been completely refitted as a cruising scientific laboratory. The vessel was re-named in memory of his father, the E. W. Scripps.

Untimely

"The untimely and shocking death of Robert P. Scripps is sure to have considerable repercussions on science, especially those scientific enterprises in which his father, E. W. Scripps, was interested," was the comment of Dr. W. E. Ritter, honorary president of Science Service, University of California biologist and former head of the Scripps Institution at La Jolla, Calif. Dr. Ritter and E. W. Scripps worked together in the organization of Science Service.

"Of these enterprises," Dr. Ritter continued, "the Scripps Institution of Oceanography has a very definite program in which Robert Scripps was keenly inter-

ested and which he was promoting in the way that his father hoped he might. Much the same can be said for the Foundation for Population Research at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

"Science Service in a way was much greater in conception and consequently less defined in scope, organization and policy. In consequence, the departure of Mr. Robert Scripps from the board of trustees leaves the future policies somewhat more of a problem. In particular, the relation of Science Service to the humanistic sciences and to democracy, which were cardinal aims and interests of E. W. Scripps, still remains to a considerable extent unsolved. The absence of the son Robert will be seriously felt by those on whom the future of Science Service will depend.

Met Responsibilities

"In tribute to Bob as a man I mention my privilege of calling him friend from the time he was a little boy and my admiration for his desire and ability to meet the responsibilities that came upon him as heir to his father's fortune and the great institutions which the father had built."

Other officers of Science Service expressed their regrets at the passing of Robert Scripps, in the following statements:

By Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, president of Science Service, who is executive officer of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, and professor emeritus of biology of Princeton University:

The death of Mr. Robert P. Scripps is a great loss to Science Service. He has been an active trustee of this institution for the popularization of science which his father founded. Scientific men will join the newspaper world in feeling the absence of his influence and action.

By Watson Davis, director of Science Service:

A Leader

Mr. Robert P. Scripps was one of the quiet, effective liberal leaders in American life. His untimely passing robs our



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civilization of an influence for constructive progress. The world of science as well as that of public affairs and newspapers mourns Mr. Scripps because of his active interest in Science Service and other scientific institutions with which the name of Scripps will ever be associated.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1938

CHEMISTRY

Science Seeking Tung Oil Substitute in Paints

JAPAN is conquering China foot by foot. Already the economic consequences of her control are felt in the world markets, mainly as a stopping of Chinese exports like tung oil. Realistic business sees conditions becoming worse before they become better and hence is enlisting the aid of scientific research to find some substitute for the fast-drying vegetable oil which finds such wide use in paints and lacquers.

Which brings us to oiticica oil. You've never heard of it? That may be true but soon you will be hearing much more about this oil which comes from pecan-like nuts from Brazil's oiticica tree. Oiticica oil (pronounced oy-tee-see-kar) is the only vegetable oil, available in commercial quantities, which rivals tung oil in its properties.

While you can follow the Japan-China troubles in the newspaper headlines you can also read them, by inference, from the tables showing Brazil's exports of