

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



ROBERT P. SCRIPPS

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

oiticica oil. Prior to 1934 these exports were negligible. In 1935 exports of oiticica oil totaled 4,000,000 pounds and in 1936 they jumped to between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000 pounds. In 1936 the United States took 3,000,000 pounds of the total and in 1937 the amount increased to 4,000,000 pounds. World export figures for 1937 are not yet available.

Research is showing how the oil can give both smooth and crinkly surfaces to paints and lacquers. Early work, in which the oil was processed like tung oil, gave discouraging results that are now being overcome.

Oiticica oil seems especially adapted for use with phenolic resin lacquers of which bakelite is typical. The crushing of the nuts in northern Brazil is now done in modern factories which bid fair to set up a new oil source despite any events which may occur in the far east. Chemists in Germany, England and France, as well as the United States are studying the oiticica oil.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1938

MEDICINE

Cancer Attacks Children As Well As Older Persons

YOUNG persons can and do have cancer. It occurs in practically all parts of the body.

The Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital, St. Louis, since 1908, has had 134 young patients in whom the diagnosis of cancer was definitely proved by microscopic examination.

Seventy-two additional cases were diagnosed as cancer by experienced staff physicians, but on these there was no report of microscopic examination.

Youngest in the series were a girl 8½ and a boy of 9 years. The youngest with carcinoma of the lip was 19; of the breast, 22; of the ovary, 15, and of the cervix, 20 years.

Drs. Norman Hall and James W. Bagby report the cases in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. (March 5)

They report also a seeming tendency of cancer to manifest itself more often during early life. Cases reported are of carcinoma only. Sarcoma and other malignant conditions have not been included.

"The age of the patient must not influence one in procrastination and watchful waiting," the St. Louis specialists state. "The results of treatment in young persons, as in older ones, depend on early diagnosis and adequate treatment."

Science News Letter, March 19, 1938

PSYCHOLOGY

Expert Tells Why Wives and Husbands Want to Leave Home

Path From Altar to Divorce Court Is Lined With Petty Annoyances Because Neither Partner Cares

TWO MILLION young men and women will be married during the coming year. They will all start off in a flurry of good wishes and rice, hoping for great happiness.

But nearly 200,000 of these marriages will end in the divorce court instead of happiness ever after.

Los Angeles county, famous as the site of glamorous movie romances, is also noted for its brittle marriages. There, one-half of all the married couples go to the divorce court to air publicly their marital infelicities.

Many more couples, in Los Angeles county and elsewhere throughout the United States, remain miserably at home still married but far from happily married.

To stem the tide bringing about the wreckage of so much human happiness, a clinic was started in Los Angeles some

years ago to treat ailing marriages. There, husbands and wives pour out their troubles to expert advisers.

No two cases are exactly alike. The family problems are complicated; they have been years in developing. But in most cases where both husband and wife are intelligent and want to make a success of their marriage, the Institute of Family Relations is able to show them how to do so.

After listening to the confidences of many an abused wife and tortured husband, Dr. Paul Popenoe, director of the Institute, has listed for you some of the most popular methods of husband and wife torture. Here is a picture of an American husband as seen through the eyes of the unhappy wife:

He is away from home taking care of business most of the time.

When he is home he acts as if the



SHE GETS UP LATE

Husband complains when, in pajamas and curlers, the wife sets a can of tomato juice on the table, which he dispatches while she scrapes the toast. He doesn't like her curlers, pajamas or the thrown-together breakfast. His newspaper reading during breakfast peevs her.