

desire for the truth and nothing but the truth." He went on: "One might say of each of them as Shakespeare said of Brutus—'His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, this was a man.'"

From his wife Cecil Calvert received devoted loyalty and support. Many visitors to their lovely home at the Spa, Ballynahinch, and later at Newtownbreda, will remember the graciousness and warmth she provided. To his intimate friends he often admitted how much he owed to her, and indeed this could easily be discovered by all who knew them, each having a deep regard and affection for the qualities of the other.

#### GEORGE SARTON, Sc.D., L.H.D., LL.D., Ph.D

Professor George Sarton, Emeritus Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, died at Cambridge, Massachusetts, on March 22, aged 71.

George Alfred Léon Sarton was born at Ghent on August 31, 1884, the son of a director and chief engineer of the Belgian State Railways. He studied philosophy, general science, chemistry, and mathematics at the University of Ghent, graduated in science in 1906, and proceeded to the doctorate in mathematics in 1911. In the same year he married an English lady, the daughter of Richard Gervase Elwes. By this time he was specializing in the history of science, and in the following year (1912) he founded *Isis*, a review devoted to the history and philosophy of science. Twenty-four years later he founded *Osiris* for longer studies, and until recently he edited and contributed largely to both journals. Shortly before the first world war he had started work on the notes for the first volume of his monumental work, *Introduction to the History of Science*. When the Germans invaded Belgium in 1914 Sarton fled with his family to England, where he worked for a time in the War Office, but in 1915 he settled in the United States. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1924.

Sarton's first post in America was that of lecturer on the history of science at the George Washington University (1915-16). After a year a similar post was created for him at Harvard. In 1940 he was made professor, and in 1951 he retired and became "emeritus." The Carnegie Institution of Washington made him a research associate in 1918, and he retained that post for 30 years. He was Lowell Lecturer in Boston in 1916, Colver Lecturer at Brown University in 1930, Hitchcock Professor at Berkeley in 1932, and Elihu Root Lecturer at Washington in 1935. In 1948 he gave at University College, London, the Special University Lectures on the history of science. He was created a Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium in 1940, and among the many American and European universities and societies which honoured him was the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of which he was made an Honorary Fellow.

Dr. E. ASHWORTH UNDERWOOD writes: For those who never had the opportunity of sitting at the feet of Sarton at Harvard his influence will be apparent in his writings, and especially in his *Introduction to the History of Science*. The story of this work is the story of Sarton's adult life. Very early in his scientific career he determined to write a work "to explain the development of science across the ages and around the earth, the growth of man's knowledge of nature and of himself." He was rapidly becoming dissatisfied with the histories of individual subjects, and he was imbued with the conviction that no work in this field could be entirely satisfactory which did not deal with the history of science as a unity and emphasize the contributions made by the peoples of the East. The introduction

which he conceived was not a "history": it was a work which would contain the basic source material for such a history, written from Sarton's universal standpoint. It was to deal with all the sciences, including medicine when the advance of scientific ideas was involved. He was making notes systematically for it in 1912, and he conceived a relatively short work which would cover the field from the earliest times to the twentieth century.

The note-taking proceeded actively, and by 1914 much had been done. Sarton used to tell with a twinkle in his eye how he had buried these notes in his garden when the German invasion occurred; six years later he returned to Ghent and dug them up. By this time he was deep in the study of Arabic and Oriental languages. The first volume, covering the period from Homer to the end of the eleventh century, was published in 1927. It had taken Sarton nine years of active work. The second "volume," dealing with the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, took him a further four years. It was published in 1931 in two enormous "parts" containing over 1,200 pages. The third "volume," likewise published in two very large "parts," did not come out until 1947, and it dealt only with the fourteenth century.

It was at this stage that Sarton decided to terminate this great project. He estimated that his volume for the fifteenth century would take him a further 10 or 15 years, and he had other projects in mind. His idea was to write up the lectures which he had so long given at Harvard into a connected history of science. He planned to complete it in nine volumes. The first volume of this fine work was published in 1954, and in his last letter to me, written some weeks before his death, he spoke of the anticipated early publication of the second volume. Though this other great project remains a mere fragment, Sarton published several short books during the last few years. Especially notable are his scholarly study of *Galen of Pergamon* (1954) and *Horus, a Guide to the History of Science* (1952). Each of these is in its own way very characteristic of the man. He used to say that his real interests lay in the modern period. But the shortness of life's span brought it about that his chief published work dealt with the mediaeval period. His writings on the later periods are found mainly in the pages of *Isis* and other journals, and the bibliography of his published articles and notes contains over 600 numbered items. He will be remembered as one of the greatest influences in the linking of the sciences with the humanities.

Professor Sarton's wife died several years ago. His only child is the well-known poetess, May Sarton.

#### F. J. F. BARRINGTON, M.S., F.R.C.S.

The obituary of Mr. F. J. F. Barrington was printed in the *Journal* last week (p. 808). We are indebted to Sir CHARLES LOVATT EVANS for the following appreciation:

Barrington was one of those rare characters to whom, in the atmosphere of a teaching hospital, a pseudonym would almost spontaneously become attached. "Snorker" was unique, and the nickname, which he bore for more than 40 years, was at once descriptive and affectionate. His outstanding characteristics were his selfless devotion to his work as a surgeon, to science for its own sake, his fearless honesty, and his detestation, freely and forcibly expressed, of bunkum in any form or guise.

In his earlier days at U.C.H., with his close-cropped skull, square jaw, severe expression, and abrupt speech, he was to students at first formidable, then respected, and soon loved; he became traditional. With patients, nearly all of whom were men, he had no orthodox bedside manner, but rather a breezy virile concern and friendliness which quickly won their confidence and regard.

He was widely read in many directions, but especially in the biological sciences; natural history was his hobby, and he was often to be seen on Sunday mornings at the Zoological Gardens, with which he became intimately familiar. Much of his spare time was occupied with