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Biography

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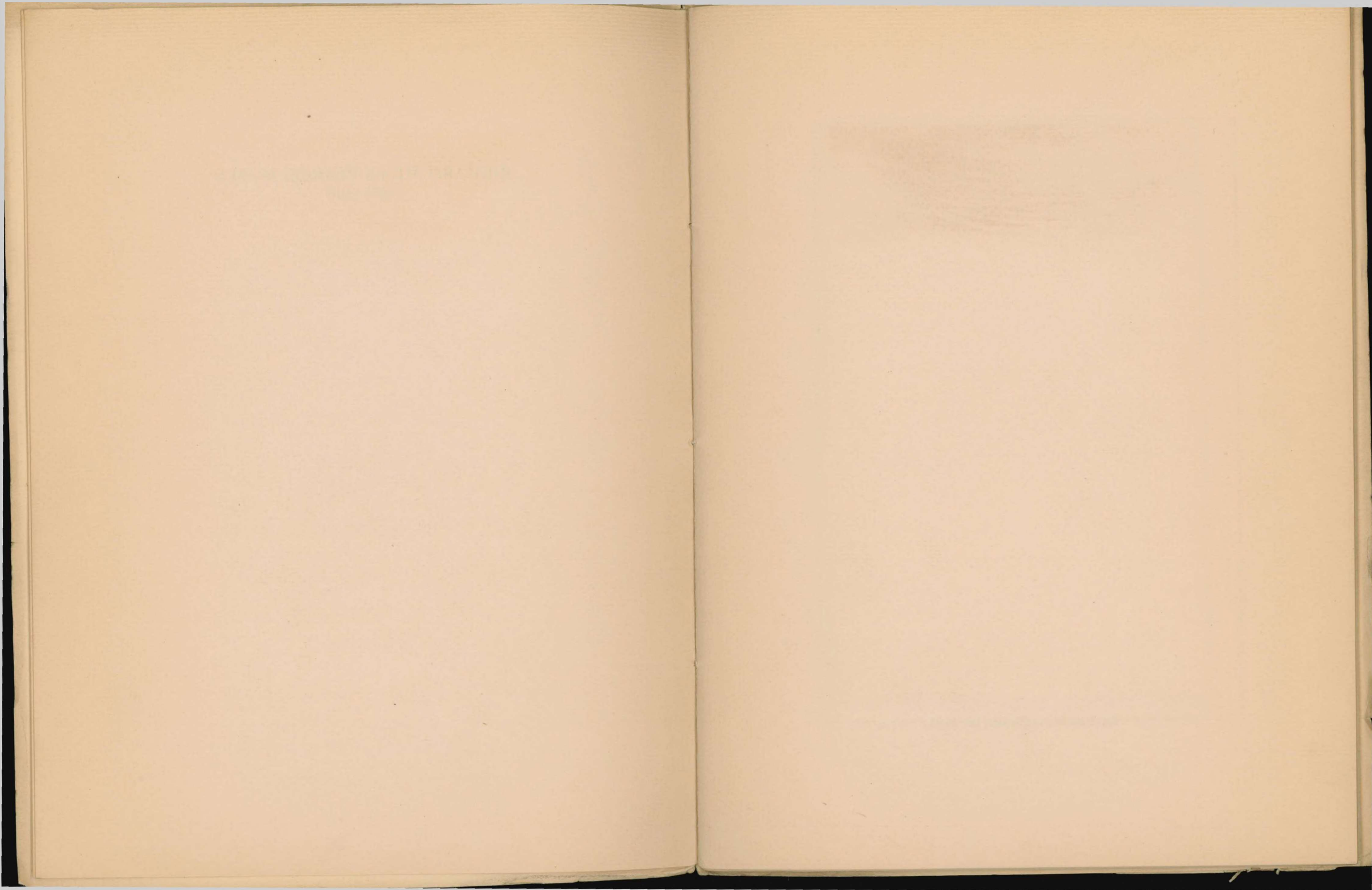
RICHARD MILLS PEARCE, JR.

1874 - 1930

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RICHARD MILLS PEARCE, JR., M.D.
1874-1930





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ADDRESSES DELIVERED

AT A

MEMORIAL MEETING

HELD APRIL 15, 1930

AT THE

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
NEW YORK CITY

SPEAKERS

George E. Vincent

President, The Rockefeller Foundation, 1917-1929

David L. Edsall, M.D.

Dean, Harvard Medical School

Howard T. Karsner, M.D.

Professor of Pathology, Western Reserve University

Simon Flexner, M.D.

Director, The Rockefeller Institute

INCLUDED ALSO IS

AN APPRECIATION BY ALAN GREGG, M.D.

Associate Director for the Medical Sciences
Paris Office, The Rockefeller Foundation

DR. RICHARD M. PEARCE, JR., AND THE ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION
GEORGE E. VINCENT

When Richard M. Pearce joined the staff of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1919, he brought to the service of the institution unusual natural abilities developed and disciplined by sound training; first-hand experience as an investigator and teacher; a knowledge of the history of medicine and of medical research both at home and abroad; a philosophic grasp of the problems of medical education; clearly defined ideals of organization and methods; familiarity with practical administrative work in the laboratory and with the Medical Committee of the National Research Council; exceptional capacity for clear thinking and effective exposition; and in addition fine traits of personality and character.

Even before he gave full time to the Foundation, Dr. Pearce had made three journeys to South America under the auspices of the International Health Board. During the following decade he visited medical schools and institutes, some of them repeatedly, in Great Britain and on the Continent; in the Near East; in the Far East, including China, Japan, the Philippines, Hongkong, the Straits Settlements, Siam; in Canada and the United States; in Haiti and Santo Domingo. He spent a year in residence at the Peking Union Medical College.

Moreover, he sent his colleagues to many other countries—Russia, Iceland, the new Baltic States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Java, India. From these men came detailed reports about institutions, their

equipment, personnel, methods, the conditions under which the work was carried on, the problems to be solved, the needs and possibilities. Wide personal acquaintance with medical leaders from every continent also added much to Dr. Pearce's information. There was good reason for a distinguished authority to say: "His knowledge of conditions everywhere has become such that I think there is nobody else I know in the world who could reach judgments with regard to matters in his domain in so informed a way as he."

Dr. Pearce's knowledge was not encyclopedic in the sense of being merely systematized items of isolated information. He saw things in their relations in their historic development, as wholes not as fragments. There were for him world centers of influence from which scientific and cultural forces made their way to many regions near or far. Hence he worked out comprehensive plans which grew ever clearer in his own mind. Each particular project he delighted to put in its larger setting. His expositions to his colleagues and to the trustees were models of definite, vivid, terse, and convincing statement.

The spirit in which Dr. Pearce carried on his delicate and difficult task was singularly modest and considerate. With millions in the background, he studiously avoided the very appearance of dogmatism or dictation. He knew so much that he never oversimplified a situation in order to apply a preconceived policy. True, he held steadfastly to certain guiding principles which he outlined essentially in an address given before the Medical School at Syracuse University in 1912, but he recognized always the idea of relativity. There are stages in development, peculiar situations, social traditions, which

must inevitably be reckoned with. Not the whole way, but the next step in the right direction, was Dr. Pearce's motto. But at the same time he liked to keep a remote aim always in mind.

To help investigators, teachers, and administrators to analyze their problems and to develop their own programs was Dr. Pearce's favorite method. He put his rich and varied store of pertinent information at their disposal, but he avoided the eager pressure of the propagandist. He and his colleagues were a clearing-house of fact and suggestion from all parts of the world. The volumes entitled "Methods and Problems of Medical Education," published under Dr. Pearce's editorship, admirably illustrate this idea. Leaders of research and teaching in hundreds of institutions in scores of countries were asked to describe with plans and pictures buildings, equipment, staff organization, and methods of work. If a new and promising device or idea was observed by Dr. Pearce or reported by a member of his staff, the originator was urged to prepare a descriptive article for "Methods and Problems." These volumes were sent periodically to medical schools, leaders, and officials throughout the world. In this way, constant cross-fertilization of minds was effected without any offensive suggestion of carrying light to dark places or of a program of Americanization.

The success of this approach testified both to its wisdom and to the engaging and sincere personality of Dr. Pearce. He was regarded primarily as an informed, friendly, and completely frank adviser rather than as a dispenser of large funds. This is amply evidenced by the appreciative words which have come since his death from medical school and other authorities in many parts

of the world. This, from University College, London, is typical: "The Members of the College who have been most intimately associated with him have learned to appreciate his sympathetic understanding of our problems and his untiring efforts to help us, and have developed a personal affection for him which has played a large part in the promotion of that helpful intercourse between the Rockefeller Foundation and this college which has meant so much to us."

Further testimony comes from Sir Walter Fletcher, Secretary of the British Medical Research Council: "His going now is a grievous thing. I am continually finding men here, among those to whom I thought he was merely an acquaintance, speaking of his loss in personal terms that show clearly the kind of affection and regard that those he met quickly learned to have for him. There are very many indeed here, beside myself, who owe him a heavy debt for his sympathy and insight, and for his ready help and interest in all the more serious sides of our work." From Berlin this message was received: "Profoundly moved by the sudden death of Dr. Pearce, the Notgemeinschaft remembers the unforgettable services which the Rockefeller Foundation under his distinguished cooperation has given both to the world and to German science." Thus, expressions of grief and appreciation came pouring in from every quarter of the world.

The breadth and magnanimity which Dr. Pearce displayed in his relations with this outer world were also characteristic of his attitude within the circle of his colleagues. Loyal to his own special work, keen for the advancement of its interests, he never failed to see these as parts of a larger whole, the task of the Foundation as

a unified institution. His quick and disciplined mind could always be counted upon to discover and emphasize things in common, and to support policies of co-ordination and team-play. He did not, however, hesitate to raise questions about proposals which seemed to him inconsistent, irrelevant, or tangential. He could be at times disconcertingly frank and plain-spoken, but without personal enmity or bitterness. His observations were incisive, sometimes surgical, but always aseptic. If, as occasionally happened, he felt he had been hasty or severe, he had a touching way of making affectionate amends which bound his associates to him with ever closer ties of confidence and loyalty.

Richard Pearce was no bureaucrat. He had little use for official rank and status. His relations with his immediate associates who were administratively responsible to him were human, considerate, and respectful of their individuality, initiative, and independent judgments. His close friend and associate, Dr. Alan Gregg, has written a beautifully lucid and moving paper which among other things deals with Dr. Pearce's attitude towards his colleagues. "With a certain hesitancy to show his feelings," writes Dr. Gregg, "Dr. Pearce could not conceal his shy contentment and instinctive pleasure in helping others."

As an administrator Dr. Pearce planned a long way and a long time in advance. His colleagues, who often inclined towards a somewhat more hand-to-mouth policy, were tempted to twit him with the early crossing of distant bridges, but they generally had to admit in the end the value of the far look forward. The pleasure and satisfaction with which Dr. Pearce hailed an opportunity which finally opened up after being long awaited

were quickly shared by his associates. The response of the trustees to future possibilities so graphically and invitingly set forth amply justified the time spent on investigation, constructive thought, and projected program.

For ten happy years, happy in spite of physical limitations towards the end, Richard Pearce brought his fine abilities, splendid training, and rich experience to bear upon fundamental developments in many parts of the world, developments fraught with meaning for science and for the protection and succor of mankind. His was conspicuously a case of "Chance and the Prepared Mind," the title he chose for an address at Harvard in which he elaborated the famous dictum of Pasteur. Few men could have been better prepared to take advantage of the great chance which came to him. In a true sense his influence will be carried on in coming years in the organization, the methods, even the spirit of men and institutions scattered widely in many lands.

The colleagues and friends of Dr. Pearce in the Rockefeller Foundation feel a deep sense of personal bereavement. They will miss his wise counsel, his generous friendship, his sturdy sincerity, his capacity for affectionate loyalty. At the same time they are profoundly grateful for association with him; they feel corporate and personal pride in what he was and did; they have the memory of his character and ideals to help them as they carry on.

RICHARD M. PEARCE, JR.
FROM THE PERSONAL SIDE
DAVID L. EDSALL, M.D.

There is perhaps nothing that more greatly elevates our own aims than contemplation of the accomplishments and qualities of those who stand above their fellows in value to the world. Reflection upon those special qualities that most emphasize a loss do tend to make the loss more keenly apparent to us, but there is deep comfort in the thought that the finer the attributes and the wider their sphere of influence, the more clearly and firmly may we believe that they carry on now and in future. It is well nigh certain that no one in medicine has had such diverse and world-wide opportunities to aid intelligent development and endeavor as had Richard Pearce.

Gifted always with clear vision and purpose, he chose the career he wished immediately upon completion of his professional course of training, and followed it without hesitation or change until it ultimately led him to larger and broader fields, unprecedented in character, that opened to him a vast opportunity for helpfulness to others.

Two whose activities have been in the academic field with which he was identified will speak with more authority than I of his relations to that field. I should like to speak less of the precise details of his work and rather to dwell a little upon the personal qualities that were so important in making his life a rarely useful one and that made him so dear to his intimates.

With large accomplishment it is unnecessary to point

out ability. Large accomplishments imply ability, but many able persons do not achieve important things, and finer traits than ability alone are found in those who arouse deep admiration and trust and leave an enduring influence.

A simple incident, early in Dr. Pearce's career, emphasized a quality that was of dominating influence in its effect upon him and upon those who dealt with him. In the early days of his teaching in the Harvard Medical School, he was asked one day by Charles Sedgwick Minot how his research work was going. Upon his replying that he was very dissatisfied with his accomplishment, Minot, an unusually penetrating man, spoke with much satisfaction of his confidence that Pearce would do large things because of his consistent feeling that his work needed to be better done. This trait is not uncommon in some degree, but as success comes it is prone to be replaced by an idler complacency. With him, however, it never faded. Without any morbid self-depreciation, and with happy and optimistic spirit, he was, nevertheless, driven throughout by the need of doing better things; driven so far finally that it broke his strength.

Recently in an address to his people on the differences between the Oriental and the Occidental, Hu Shuh, the distinguished Chinese philosopher, said that whereas the Oriental accepts with serenity the conditions that he finds about him the Occidental is actuated by what a great poet has described as divine discontent, a seeking for what more nearly approaches the divine. In that regard Pearce was in high degree occidental, and this trait influenced not only his work but those who worked or played with him or sought his advice. We all resent

the mere taskmaster, but we cherish the experiences that spur us past moments of weak relaxation. I share with others, I am sure, the feeling that while he warmly comprehended and deeply sympathized with actual difficulties there was little approval when one was tempted to allow difficulties to dominate one's action. There are few things that are so gratefully remembered, few things that we depend upon so much, as the steady-firm touch that guides always on towards stronger effort. Few persons are endowed with the power to hold others to high standards and yet to rouse only feelings of gratitude and affection, but his was no coldly puritanical spirit. In persons who lead others on, qualities that reach the heart are no less important than those that stimulate the courage. A rarely deep and manifest loyalty, straightforward frankness, keenly affectionate interest in those whose lives touched his, considerate tenderness in times of trial, all these he had in abundance for his colleagues, and equally for his subordinates. They were given freely and sweetly to his intimates. And I cherish with special tenderness those rare times when the sweetness of his nature gave place to fiery indignation as evidence came forth that baser motives were blocking high endeavor, or that individuals were suffering from cold, unkind, or unjust treatment. Such traits are not easily found, and when found we lean upon them. If this staff is withdrawn from us we perforce stumble upon our road until we can adjust our step to a more self-dependent pace.

I need not argue that those qualities that make up what we call character are the most important elements in determining one's effect upon his environment. These qualities in him brought both elevation and warmth to

his associates. In the more intimate views of him that came with recreation, a native love of things of beauty heightened the charm of fellowship. During a long period of restriction in physical activity, following a typhoidal phlebitis, his happy avocation became long ago the study of things in nature, especially the flowers, the trees, and other woodland growths. With his usual thoroughness this was carried on with scholarly care, and remained always a source of joy to him at home and in his wide travel, and it furnished to his companions zest and enlightenment in play. It is fitting that in the company of the flowers and trees, the mosses and the ferns, he should "lie in the peace of the Great Release" in those lovely surroundings that for years gave him such interest and such serene happiness.

When he came to the point of leaving his academic work for that which occupied his later years, many wondered that he should relinquish high position, the opportunity to guide many aspiring young minds, and the personal search for new knowledge, to take up instead what seemed to be relatively dull administrative work. With his clear judgment and vision he had, however, through preliminary experience, recognized this as an almost boundless opportunity to better conditions of work in the profession of his choice throughout the world, and thus as an opportunity for the betterment of mankind. The fact that it meant giving up his personal part in the details of scholarly work did not weigh against the opportunity to benefit the fine efforts of great numbers of persons. As the trusted guide, in recent years, of what has been the largest activity of a vast philanthropy, he became familiar with the atmosphere, the methods, the problems, and the difficulties of med-

ical work and of those engaged in it in its diverse forms in all parts of the world. It fell to my province recently, with others of a committee, to be obliged to attempt to understand, to comment upon, and to recommend action regarding the manifold activities of his division of work. I venture to think that no one had ever had occasion to seek, and no one ever had gained, the knowledge of medical and public health activities in teaching and research in the various parts of the world that he had secured. In all cases he approached the problems with understanding spirit, with clear judgment, and with tolerant appreciation of the conditions surrounding the work. It was a bewildering experience to me to survey it rapidly, but he had brought to bear upon this maze of things the thoroughness of effort, the clarity of judgment, the helpful kindly spirit that had roused trust and affection in his more localized earlier work. As the astronomer comes to think in terms of universes, whereas others of us think of portions of a small planet, so he saw the world as we see individual institutions. In this way especially there is no one that could take up the torch that dropped with him.

It has been my fortune to see in many parts of this continent, in Europe, and in some parts of Asia, activities that sought benefactions from the division he guided. Some were aided, some were not. When great numbers of earnest aspiring persons are eagerly seeking help for the things that are next their hearts, it is manifest that the individual who formulates judgments cannot avoid disappointing many, and the likelihood of ill feeling is very great. It is a happiness to think of the evidence of trust and confidence in him and in his wisdom and fairness, that I have seen everywhere I have gone; a marvel-

ous though unconscious tribute to his character and to the sweetness and good-will that he carried to all.

One of the greatest men I have known, perhaps the greatest, said to me sadly in his old age that any man's work soon disappears. It was only depression from failing strength that could have led that man to think his work ended with his life. It goes on and will go on without limit. And with Pearce it is deeply cheering to reflect upon the great numbers of things now going on in all parts of the globe, that will continue to contribute to human welfare in better and finer ways owing to the careful, wise, and devoted manner in which he played his part in the administration of a vast trust.

Of all the great privileges of life the greatest is fellowship with those who leave, in action or in memory, a picture that has no parts that we would alter and that in the gloomier moments when, with the sad Persian poet, we fain would think this world "a sorry scheme of things entire" gives us faith that it moves instead on towards loftier ends.

RICHARD M. PEARCE, JR.
A PUPIL'S TRIBUTE
HOWARD T. KARSNER, M.D.

The invitation to speak at this memorial service was accepted without hesitation, for the honor conferred by joining in the tribute to a life of service to mankind was keenly felt. Richard M. Pearce was my teacher in student days, my chief in later days, my guide and counselor in many times of need, and through thirty years my dear friend. The devotion established in those first contacts grew and deepened as his fineness of instinct and nobility of character were unfolded. The emotions of these last few weeks, based upon admiration for the scientist, educator, and administrator, and deep affection for the man, have fixed and stabilized the impressions of a life which was a constant source of inspiration. Now, with the earthly career brought to an early termination, the heightened perspective serves to emphasize and bring into sharp outline the greatness of spirit and character which were at all times dominant. As Isocrates puts it, this was "a whole man possessed of all the virtues of a man."

Doctor Pearce had many pupils who have attained distinction in scientific medicine. With genuine humility I feel that at this time I may speak for them. Many were my associates and are my friends, and they will bear with me, I hope, in the inadequacies of my expressions. To all of us Dr. Pearce represented that ideal expressed by Rosenkranz, who speaks of education as "the influencing of man by man," and says that it "has for its end to lead him to actualize himself through his

own efforts." The two factors considered in this definition can be seen to be extrinsic and intrinsic. In the examination of the careers of men of distinction the intrinsic merit of each can often readily be discovered. Oftentimes the extrinsic factors are not given their full evaluation. Wilhelm Ostwald's "Grosse Männer" analyzes the intrinsic factor of six great men of the natural sciences, but gives comparatively little attention to the fact that Davy had his Borlase and Rumford, Mayer his Gmelin, Faraday his Davy, Liebig his Schelling, Gerhardt his Liebig, and Helmholtz his Johannes Müller. We know that Pasteur had his Dumas and in our own circle we see Welch with Cohnheim, Flexner with Welch, and Pearce with Flexner, Councilman, and Mallory. We rejoice that we have had our Pearce. We who were his pupils lay claim with pride to the influence which he had upon us and if our work gave him any degree of satisfaction are grateful for the kindness of his judgments. If we brought anything to the contact it was in interest in the work and eagerness to learn. Our reward was to be found in the generous guidance under which we gladly placed ourselves.

This influence of man upon man, by which we profited in different degrees, was continuously in evidence. It was not conscious and deliberate on the part of our chief but integral in the man's nature and character. It was continuous and pervasive. It was not a matter merely for the laboratory and classroom, but was to be found in our visits to his home and in the delightful excursions into the beautiful country surrounding Philadelphia. It was science for the sake of truth and it was life worthy of living.

If through our own initiative we planned a study of a

particular topic, our projects were examined in sympathetic conference with the chief and the program outlined under his critical guidance. If we were honored by participation in his own investigations we were taken through the maze of facts and hypotheses that led up to the work and understood fully the orientation of our contributions in the more comprehensive field. When results were ultimately collected we found the chief's interest unabated. The fountains of his energy seemed inexhaustible, and his enthusiasm prevailed in the course of the investigation, the critique of its methods, and finally in the mode of presentation. Such facts as were establishing must be exhibited with clarity. Such hypotheses as might be justified must keep within the bounds of a rational logic. The whole must be precise. Words must be selected with a true sense of their meaning and must not be wasted. The example was set by the man's whole manner of life. It was followed because of its own obvious merit and not because of an institutional dogma. It was especially persuasive because it was unconscious. We had a departmental family, the lives of each member bound up in the welfare of the whole. This depended for its existence upon the devotion of the chief to his scientific ideals and the professional development of his associates. The privacy of personal troubles was sacred to the chief, but advancement of knowledge was the purpose of all. Freedom of discussion and liberty of action were always preserved and mutual tolerance was invariable. Such circumstances were possible because they represented the ideals which Richard Pearce set for himself and which he attained.

The example of thorough training, constructive imagination, productive energy, and intellectual alertness are of themselves sufficient to stimulate emulation.

These were possessed in the fullest degree by Doctor Pearce. When to these are added some of his other characters, the sum total not merely stimulated, but compelled attempts to fulfill the aspirations so laid before us.

Doctor Pearce knew pathological morphology and his opinions were sought and respected. As early as his days with Flexner and with Marchand he displayed that interest in diseased function which played so large a part in his investigative work. Without blind idolatry he knew the history of biological science and was familiar with the discoveries of the past. He was no mere collector of facts, but understood the conditions of their discovery, orientated the workers in their environment, and carefully analyzed their work in its relation to modern science. His taste in reading was catholic, and this was displayed in his thought and conversation. He knew the cruelties of nature as exhibited in disease, but enjoyed to the full her manifold beauties. These and other qualities, insuring an unusually broad basis for his discussions and advice, constituted an extraordinary composite whose influence on all his associates, whether peers or juniors, was a force for good which time cannot dim.

Richard Pearce benefited from the men who were his teachers, actualized himself through his own efforts, and exerted a guiding influence upon his pupils. He was a living prototype of the best principles of education. There is then no cause for wonder that his counsel was widely sought and that his career showed its final flower in his international fame as an educator. As Owen Wister has written of another great physician, "it is spirits such as his that should people the minds of our youth and point them the true road to noble living."

The great attainments of this man can be accounted for in his many-sided interests and activities. These, however, cannot explain the depth of our affection for him. His charm lay deeper than personality, attractive as it was. It is to be found in his character, with its gentleness, its geniality, its understanding, its vigor of purpose, its capacity for true friendship, and its indubitable genuineness.

His influence dominates the lives of us, his pupils. It plays a significant part in our thoughts and actions, personal, scientific, and educational. We hope we may pass it on through the generations to our students and pupils. We have lost not merely a disciple of Aesculapius and Apollo, but a high priest. Our sorrow may, in some measure, be assuaged by the blessing his life has conferred.

DR. PEARCE'S ACADEMIC CAREER
SIMON FLEXNER, M.D.

Friends, Dr. Pearce and I came together just thirty years ago. A pupil of Professor Mallory of the Harvard Medical School, who is here today to do his memory honor, a pupil also of Professor Councilman of the Harvard Medical School, who would be here today if his health permitted, he joined the small group of pathologists at the University of Pennsylvania in the year 1900. He had been with Dr. Mallory from 1897 until 1899 as one of the young assistants in the Pathological Laboratory of the Boston City Hospital. He then spent a year with Professor Councilman teaching pathology in the Harvard Medical School. Under those auspices, and already a graduate of the Harvard Medical School, he formed a love for the science of pathology to which he devoted his life.

His coming to the University of Pennsylvania as a demonstrator in pathology constituted something of a novelty. In those days the younger assistants did not often devote their entire time to the particular subject in which they assisted. They taught students, which was their chief occupation. They were also engaged in some outside professional activity—the practice of medicine in one of its phases. Dr. Pearce, however, came as demonstrator of pathology, with the purpose of devoting his entire time to that subject. He was a great boon to the young department, and most of all to me. The excellent training which he had undergone in Boston was at that time a remarkable asset to the University of Pennsylvania with its small department of pathology,

its very large number of students to be taught, and the relatively heavy routine in connection with the hospital work which the department was expected to carry.

One of the interests which the young department had very much at heart was the experimental side of pathology, and Dr. Pearce joined with great enthusiasm in the work which had been started the year before. And he was so well suited by mental aptitude to this particular aspect of pathology that it became his main interest during the entire subsequent period in which he served pathology as teacher and investigator. He very quickly rose from demonstrator to assistant professor. A half year he spent in Leipzig with the great German pathologist, Professor Marchand. From that experience he returned to the University of Pennsylvania, and then had the great fortunate experience of his life—his marriage to Miss May Musser.

A year later the department was disorganized. The Rockefeller Institute having projected a laboratory in New York, I had the good fortune to be asked to come to New York to that laboratory. It became necessary for the staff of the department of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania to distribute itself, as it were, over other educational institutions; and Dr. Pearce was called to Albany, to the professorship of pathology at the Albany Medical College, and the directorship of the Bender Laboratory connected with the medical college. There he spent several fruitful years, and the impression which he made upon the medical school is an enduring one.

Dr. Pearce was then called to Bellevue Medical College, in New York, as professor of pathology, where he spent several years, after which he was called back

to the University of Pennsylvania to fill the first chair of research medicine that had been established in the United States. While connected with the latter institution he was asked to make the several expeditions to South America to which Mr. Vincent has alluded, and which later led to his call to the Rockefeller Foundation, to take over the administration of its division of medical education, in which position he remained for the rest of his life.

Every man's scientific history is a thing not of mere accident, but of circumstance. As I have known Dr. Pearce for thirty years, and during that time intimately, and have had associations with him—sometimes unfortunately at longer intervals than I liked—I have seen something of the history of the man develop within that term of years.

He records in one of his written papers that the first real, fundamental, impressive scientific experience he had was under Professor Minot, who was professor of histology and embryology at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Pearce was looking through the microscope at a preparation made from the skin of a frog, and in accordance with the plan of instruction he had been told to draw what he saw. He had been in the habit of reading and studying books, had studied books on histology, and he knew from the pictures in the books what the cells of the frog skin should look like. And although the object was under the microscope and presumably he saw it, what he did unintentionally was to draw the picture of the skin of the frog, not as it appeared under the microscope, but as he remembered it from written and printed descriptions in books. When Professor Minot passed along the line of students and

looked into his microscope and onto his picture, he gently reminded Dr. Pearce that what he was drawing was not what he saw, but what he remembered having seen elsewhere. Dr. Pearce never forgot that lesson. This is a very interesting fact. He dates his mental enlightenment from that incident, which must have made a tremendous impression upon him, because he wrote about it many, many years afterwards, saying that while he could not remember anything else of the course, he did remember that incident.

In 1912 he gave a course of lectures at the University of California under the Hitchcock Foundation, taking for his subject the history of medical education and research. Those lectures have been collected in a book which is accessible to anyone; it is published by the Science Press. I know of no more delightful experience today, some eighteen years later, than to read these lectures. They reveal a wealth of reading, profound thinking, an imaginative outlook on the progress of science, which would be profitable for anyone to follow. In those lectures and in the few subsequent ones which Dr. Pearce delivered at the Harvard Medical School, the Syracuse Medical School, and perhaps other medical schools, the observant reader will discover that his mind was obsessed with what might almost be called a single text. Mr. Vincent has alluded to that text in his tribute to Dr. Pearce. The text is taken from Vallery-Radot's "Life of Pasteur" (and Vallery-Radot found it in one of the famous addresses which Pasteur himself delivered). If I am not mistaken, it was the address which Pasteur delivered as dean of the faculty of science of the University of Lille. The text reads: In the field of observation, chance favors the mind which is prepared.

Those may not be the exact words, but they are a sufficiently exact statement of the text. By the "prepared mind" Pasteur meant the trained mind. He meant to say that without a trained mind, great observations and discoveries are not made.

Dr. Pearce spent his life in preparing the minds of students, in order that they might to the best of their abilities observe well. He did that as a teacher and as a notable investigator on his own part; and he did that, towards the end of his life, through the employment of the vast resources of the Rockefeller Foundation and by virtue of a purpose which embraced the entire world in its philanthropy, in providing wherever he could and it seemed wise and desirable, improved facilities for teaching and research, in order that students might be so trained and educated that they would come to make their greatest contribution to the sciences to which they were devoting their talents. That is the record of Dr. Pearce. It is a noble record, a permanent record—one that cannot be destroyed. His name itself may eventually be forgotten, but his work can never cease to exert influence.

Ladies and gentlemen, those who have preceded me have paid tribute to Dr. Pearce's splendid traits of character, his heroism in illness, his quality of friendship, his capacity for affection. There is nothing that I can add to those tributes. We have all lost a gifted co-worker, a spirit of usefulness, a dear friend.

RICHARD M. PEARCE, JR.
AN APPRECIATION
ALAN GREGG, M.D.

Few of us who knew Dr. Pearce can be without the conviction that what we received from him is exceptional and individual. It is thus doubly hard to write of a man whose death is a personal loss to so many.

His instincts were those of a simple physician, his enthusiasm and allegiances those of a scientist. Yet it was by a matured and well-considered choice that he took up the work of the past ten years—work of a still different sort that has meant much to scientists and future practitioners in many countries of the world.

With a certain hesitancy to show his feelings Dr. Pearce could not conceal his shy contentment and instinctive pleasure in helping others. He adored being *in loco parentis*—not in any proprietary or preceptorial sense but as a counsellor, a sympathetic onlooker, and at times a zealous protector. He liked to have young people about him. He would try to efface himself so that they might feel quite independent, and then wait contentedly for a chance to give the sort of help that would allow them a new freedom, or a new courage, or even the harder task he knew they might be seeking. Once he said to me that life could hardly give richer recompense than the affection borne a good family doctor in a small town.

Yet coupled with this instinctive sensitiveness to others was an uncompromising tenacity to facts and an insistence upon making the disagreeable decisions which his reflection and foresight saw to be inevitable

or necessary. Having himself thought through the train of consequences attendant upon some proposal he could, if hinting failed, support or oppose it with formidable bluntness. There was a painful conflict between his feelings for others and his insistence upon bearing witness to the truth—a struggle as often extended by his foresight as circumvented by it. And to such inner conflict Dr. Pearce brought a courage we learned to respect and rely upon.

To foresee is to govern, it is said. As an administrator Dr. Pearce was constantly preoccupied with the future—the future welfare of others and the future of all the developments he hoped to see realized. No dreamy speculation amongst tenuous probabilities, but careful provision, ordered and sequential programs and, if need be, honest warnings. His mind was so far in the future, planning and elaborating possible courses of action that it seemed sometimes as though his engagement calendar was necessary to call his attention back to the coming weeks—rather than forward. Gifted with the ability to measure swiftly the importance and validity of facts in any situation and usually with a clear plan of procedure made up in preparation for any eventuality, he approached his work with methodical incisiveness. Organize, deputize, and supervise—in this way he accomplished an astonishing amount of work even in the last five years of limited physical strength, and withal he managed to give his assistants the guidance and training they might have expected from a teacher rather than from a busy administrator in a new field. Thus, it was natural that to meet Dr. Pearce and secure his advice was often the object of his visitors in New York or his hosts elsewhere. Probably no one in the world had as

wide a knowledge of medical education in different lands as he.

And yet with all these preoccupations he had an appealing delight in creature comforts and the fleeting pleasures of everyday existence. A capacity for wonder—so often the refreshing possession of the naturalist—and an unusually accurate and quick power of observation let him appreciate the country-side in spite of a limitation placed upon active physical exercise by an early illness, and made him a delightful companion and competitor in the enjoyment of nature and travel.

His appreciation of his colleagues and his loyalty to those whom he admired and loved was a depth he was too shy to speak of. He told me once that he dared not attend the twenty-first anniversary dinner for Simon Flexner for he knew he could not control his voice in speaking of him. This depth of feeling was characteristic too of his conviction about his work. I heard a man unfold to Dr. Pearce a plan of reorganization of medical education in a certain university. The delineation of the program was beautifully clear and cogent—admirable. Looking at Dr. Pearce I suddenly saw to my amazement that he was very near tears—overwhelmed, as he said afterwards, by “so fine a statement of what really matters in medical education.”

Even though unspoken, his attachment to us found expression in innumerable proofs of courtesy, thoughtfulness, and sympathy, both in the amenities of daily life and in more important issues. To know Richard Pearce well was inevitably to owe him debts of private gratitude and yet to be constantly reminded that innumerable others felt also a special bond of allegiance, respect, and affection.

