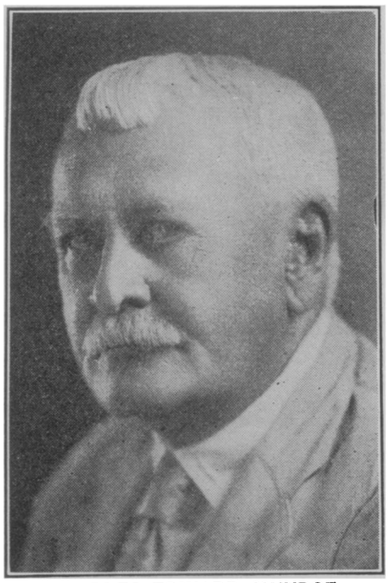
CHEMISTRY



CHARLES EDWARD MUNROE

Explosives Inventor

Every great explosion in America finds Dr. Munroe investigating it before the smoke blows away. Or perhaps one should say before its echoes die.

For Dr. Munroe invented the smokeless powder of our navy. He is the great authority on TNT and other such dangerous materials that most of us hardly dare to think about. From the seventies, when as professor at the Naval Academy, he hammered chemistry into the Navy, until now, when he steers research, as chief explosives chemist of the U. S. Bureau of Mines and chairman of the National Research Council's explosives committee, Dr. Munroe has contributed mightily to the chemical knowledge of the nation. Chemical manufacture has benefitted by his planning of the chemical censuses made by the government as well as his researches. His early experiments, when chemist to the U. S. Naval Torpedo Stations and War College, laid the foundation of the modern use of explosives. It was logical that Dr. Munroe was the government's chief advisor on explosives during the World War.

Yet his greatest works are not in the technical papers he has published or the dangerous experiments he has performed, but in the lives and achievements of those he has taught.

Thousands who have studied with him at Harvard, the Naval Academy and the George Washington University, have been inspired by him. He has the ability to unfold the vistas and ideals of science in such a way that those who see with him also accomplish.

Dr. Munroe is a forty-niner and since that year of his birth he has kept at the forefront of scientific exploration.

There is another picture, so often lacking in accounts of our intellectual leaders. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, who took a special course with Dr. Munroe at Harvard in 1872, wrote in an appreciation:

"He loves his country home, its gardens, its orchards, and its surroundings. Going back each day from his work in the Bureau of Mines, he indulges in agricultural and horticultural pursuits. His home is a typically beautiful cottage and his garden and orchards are well kept and his lawn is properly mowed. As he sits on his lawn *sub tegmine fagi,* surrounded by his grandchildren, he presents the picture of a patriarch as noble and benignant as ever honored the homes of the chosen people of God."

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Psychiatric Meeting

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one," said Professor Thurstone, "but to my astonishment, I find that children one year apart seem to be as bright as those two or three years apart."

The study will be extended until 10,000 children have been classified, he stated.

Nurses Study Mental Cases

Newest ideas in hospital care for the mentally sick were reported by two psychiatrists. It can be truthfully said that a nurse is not adequately trained unless she has practical training in care of mentally diseased cases, declared Dr. C. A. Bonner, of Boston. Any physically ill person is always nervous, and a nurse who understands mental aspects of illness is better equipped, he said. The supply of nurses specializing in mental cases is entirely too low to care even for the army of mental patients. Six general hospitals are now sending nurses for three months intensive training to the Boston Psychopathic Hospital. The courses have already shown their value in improving nursing conditions for patients, he said.

New Hospital Ideas

The experiment of caring for mental patients in a general hospital has been tried and found successful, Dr. Thomas J. Heldt, of the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, reported. Any first-class general hospital should be able to care for certain types of nervous and mental patients, if it has a neuro-psychiatrist, he said. Many persons with mental troubles are coming willingly to the general hospital for treatment when they would have been alarmed at entering a mental institution. Dr. Heldt finds it possible to care for all types of cases, without even bars or locked doors, so long as proper supervision and care is provided. In the general hospital it is also possible to readily investigate and remedy any physical disorders, which are sometimes the fundamental cause of acute mental attacks.

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ZOOLOGY—MEDICINE

Fish Tapeworm in U. S.

The dangerous fish tapeworm of Europe, the largest of those repulsive parasites that commonly attacks human beings, has become established in the United States, and is to be the object of special study this summer by a group of scientists backed by the National Research Council and under the immediate direction of Prof. H. B. Ward of the University of Illinois, foremost authority on internal parasites. They will go to the extreme northern part of Minnesota, which is the center of the threatened area in this country, and spend the summer tracing the connections of the infestation, which is complicated by the fact that the worms live part of their lives in fish and the rest in human beings and other warm-blooded creatures.

Fish tapeworm is a relatively common affliction among the peoples around the Baltic Sea, and is said to occur also to some extent in Switzerland. In some cases it does relatively little harm, while in others it introduces an extreme condition of pernicious anemia, which sometimes ends in death.

Prof. Ward states that the infestation was introduced by immigrant laborers in the iron and lumber industries, who not only carried the parasites internally but also imported their favorite dried and salt fish from the homelands. Salting does not kill the pest, and imperfect smoking also leaves it alive. There is evidence now, however, that the native fishes in some of the northern lakes may have become infested, and it is to ascertain the truth or falsity of these reports and to work out methods of keeping the infestation from spreading, that the expedition under Prof. Ward is to take the field this season.

Science News-Letter, June 11, 1927