

of Gibbs has now been written by one of the last of his students, Lynde Phelps Wheeler, and published by the Yale University Press as one of the several volumes that have appeared on the occasion of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Yale's first gesture to mark the anniversary occurred at Commencement in June 1951, when twenty-five honorary degrees were conferred on outstanding American scholars (the usual number in a given year is eight or ten). One of these was conferred on a British subject, the distinguished Polynesian anthropologist and physician, Sir Peter Henry Buck, a native-born Maori chieftain who is now director of Yale's Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Another colourful degree-recipient was the ninety-two-year-old philosopher and educator, John Dewey, who was described as representing the "experimental spirit of America". The venerable Otto Loewi, Austrian pharmacologist and Nobel laureate, was also among those who received degrees, as was the psychologist Edward C. Tollman, "valiant defender of the freedom of the mind", lately removed from the faculty of the University of California for having, with many others, refused to sign the loyalty oath. Still another was Dr. Gerty Cori, the distinguished biochemist who in 1947 shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology with her husband, Dr. Carl Cori.

The formal celebration of the anniversary will take place on October 19. To share in this ceremony the President and Fellows of the University have invited representatives from Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard, the universities from which Yale traces its descent, and in addition representatives from the forty-odd American colleges and universities which were originally administered by graduates of Yale. Prof. E. L. Woodward, professor of modern history in the University of Oxford, will be the official delegate from Oxford, and Mr. S. C. Roberts, lately vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge, will represent Cambridge. There are to be formal addresses by Mr. A. Whitney Griswold as President, by Lord Halifax who will be the guest of the University, and by President James B. Conant, the official representative of Harvard University.

There will be a further occasion on Alumni Day, February 22, 1952, when President Griswold and the chairman of the Yale Alumni Board will award Yale Medals to alumni for outstanding service to the University. The anniversary year will come to an end with the Commencement exercises in June 1952. In the future, as during its first two hundred and fifty years, Yale will be mindful of the fundamental purpose of education, phrased by John Davenport as being "for the better trayning upp of youth in this towne, that, through God's blessing they may be fitted for publique service hereafter, either in church or commonweale".

## OBITUARY

Prof. Gilbert Cook, F.R.S.

GILBERT COOK, who died on August 28, was born in Blackburn in October 1885 and he received his early education there and in Todmorden, Yorkshire. He distinguished himself at school, and in 1902 proceeded to Owens College, Manchester, where he studied under Osborne Reynolds. In 1905 he graduated in engineer-

ing with first-class honours and was awarded a graduate scholarship and the Freebairn Engineering Prize. After spending some time in the engineering workshops and as a pupil of the late D. C. Rattray, chief engineer to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, he was appointed assistant engineer with that company. In 1910 he was awarded a Vulcan research fellowship at the University of Manchester, where J. E. Petavel was director of laboratories, and there he commenced the investigations which formed perhaps his chief scientific interest throughout his life. With Andrew Robertson he published in 1911 a paper on "The Strength of Thick Hollow Cylinders under Internal Pressure" and in 1913 one on "The Transition from the Elastic to the Plastic State in Mild Steel". They were followed by a number of authoritative publications on associated subjects spread over the years.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, Cook was an assistant lecturer in the Engineering Department of the University of Manchester, and he soon laid aside his university duties to serve first in the Royal Garrison Artillery and later in the technical branch of the mining and mine-sweeping service of the Royal Navy. Service routine did not smother his sense of scientific inquiry, and papers on the accuracy of range finders and on submarine depth meters were the outcome of his war-time experience.

Cook returned to his peaceful pursuits in the University of Manchester in 1919, and soon thereafter gained the award of a D.Sc. There followed in 1921 his appointment to the chair of mechanical engineering in King's College, London, where he enhanced his reputation as a teacher and administrator. It was in 1936 that he received the King's commission to be regius professor of civil engineering and mechanics in the University of Glasgow, and there he takes a worthy place in a succession which includes James Thomson and Macquorn Rankine.

Gilbert Cook was a member of the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers and for many years a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The election to the fellowship of the Royal Society came to him in 1940. In Scotland he had given valued service to the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, and he was just completing his period of office as president when he died. He served on many educational and technical committees, to which he gave conscientious service. He was consultant and advisor to the Admiralty Hydro-Ballistic Research Establishment, a member of the Advisory Council on Building Research, of the Board of Advisors in Engineering to the University of London and of the Properties and Mechanics of Materials Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

In the fifteen years of his tenure of the chair at Glasgow, Cook made a place for himself in the councils of the University and in the esteem of his colleagues which now cannot readily be filled. He was an excellent teacher, clear and convincing because he was a complete master of his subject. He was a sound administrator because he brought to the consideration of every issue with which he had to deal a logical mind and a conscientious judgment. He was a good colleague, frank, scrupulous, considerate and loyal. In addition to his great qualities of intellect and character, he had a cultured mind and an interest in music. He is survived by his wife.