

as a great eagle, in cap and gown and hood drinking champagne with his friends, a scene reminiscent of his Hallowe'en parties when he officiated in velvet smoking jacket while his wine fountain glimmered and bubbled some secret concoction over in the corner. Next came *William Blake; Essays for S. Foster Damon* (1969) with an eighteen-page bibliography of his writings, but a series of strokes and debilitating complications had already set in and he spent his last year in a nursing home where in 1971, as his wife reported, 'The gods took Foster on Christmas Day.' His memorial service in Manning Chapel included Blake hymns and readings of his poems and poems in his honor by members of the English department. His bronze bust by Gilbert Franklin now stands beside Hiram Powers' bust of C. Fiske Harris in the Harris Room.

Foster surprised his friends in 1964 by publishing privately and pseudonymously a volume of sonnets: *Nightmare Cemetery; a Hallowe'en Frolic by Samuel Nomad*. Just as he had hoped, he failed to get a response from the review copies he sent out. When news of his death reached his friends, how many of them sought out their copies, just as he had hoped? It was his confessional, his testament, his revelation of things otherwise ineffable: 'The Deep in me cries out to the Deep in you.' He once wrote of William Blake: 'Such brave reticence, such faith in the future, may yet be rewarded.'

R. E. S.

#### RICHARD HARRISON SHRYOCK

Richard Harrison Shryock, historian of medicine, was born in Philadelphia on March 29, 1893, son of George Augustus and Mary Harrison (Chipman) Shryock. He grew up in Philadelphia but spent part of his summers at his mother's ancestral home in Connecticut. Graduating from high school in Philadelphia, he spent two years at a local teachers college and taught in the public schools for a while before going over to

the University of Pennsylvania where he took his bachelor's degree in 1917.

Finishing college just in time for the First World War, Shryock served in the Army Ambulance Corps as a private and also studied at the Army Medical School where he learned valuable lessons for later. He then returned to the University and got started on his doctorate. While working on it he married Rheva Ott, and taught at Ohio State University from 1921 until 1924 when he returned to Philadelphia to receive his Ph.D. He then stayed for the next academic year before going down to Duke as associate professor until 1931 and a full professor until 1938. It was while there that his book on Georgia and the Union was published. Pennsylvania lured him back with a professorship in American history and he settled down to the work, being absent only during the Second World War when he served in the Coast Guard as a lieutenant commander. Upon returning to academic life he continued his work, having added a lectureship in medical history to his chores. At the October meeting of 1947 Shryock was elected to this Society, 'a most opportune time for me,' he wrote in his letter accepting membership, 'as I hope to fulfill a long-delayed desire to work in the Library of the Society during the next academic year.' During that year he was asked to read a paper at an upcoming meeting and he chose the annual meeting of 1949 where he had an 'enthusiastic reception,' and his paper on eighteenth-century medicine in America appeared in our *Proceedings* for 1949. At about that time he left his post at Pennsylvania and became director of the Institute of Medical History at Johns Hopkins. In 1950 he served as president of the American Association of University Professors, after having served just after the War as acting director of the American Council of Learned Societies and president of the American Association for Medical History.

Wearing at least two of these many hats Shryock asked us about the possibility of our publishing an edition of Cotton

Mather's Angel of Bethesda, which manuscript we had owned for many, many decades. After much correspondence back and forth which included an offer of joint sponsorship with his Johns Hopkins Institute, the matter was resolved with the publication in our *Proceedings* for 1953 of his and Otho Beall's 'Cotton Mather: First Significant Figure in American Medicine' which included a few chapters of the Angel as an appendix. After much negotiation it was also published as a separate by the Johns Hopkins Press. At the age of sixty-five, Shryock started on the first of his string of retirements by leaving the Institute only to become involved in the double-barrelled appointment as professor at Pennsylvania and as librarian at the American Philosophical Society. At seventy he retired from teaching and two years later retired as librarian, remaining on as a consultant. He had also been on the original Commission of the National Portrait Gallery and a member of the National Historical Publications Commission and held an honorary doctorate from Duke among many other honors. Among his major works were *The Development of Modern Medicine*, 1936, revised and enlarged for the Knopf edition of 1947, *American Medical Research*, 1947, *The History of Nursing*, 1959, the Phelps Lectures at New York University published in 1960 as *Medicine and Society in America 1660-1860*, his essays, *Medicine in America*, 1966, and *Medical Licensing in America, 1650-1965*, published in 1967. In January 1968 the *Journal of the History of Medicine* made that issue a Festschrift for him. At our October meeting in 1968 Shryock read a paper. In an expanded form, 'Empiricism versus Rationalism in American Medicine 1650-1950,' appeared in our *Proceedings*.

His years were starting to tell on him, for the night before that meeting those members in town for the occasion met for dinner in a private room upstairs at a local restaurant. The very long flight of stairs appeared too great an obstacle for his weakened heart, so he ate downstairs. He was assured though that next time 'we will keep the dinner on the flat.'

The next occasion was at our New York meeting in 1969 at which we and he enjoyed ourselves, as we did a year later at the meeting at Winterthur, on both occasions avoiding long runs of stairs. He wrote last fall to say that he had just finished an article putting Benjamin Rush in his place, 'his medicine is really inexcusable.' He also reported that 'all year long something has robbed me of all strength and energy' but he hoped the Johns Hopkins doctors would find 'what ails me.'

His heart finally giving out, Richard Harrison Shryock died at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on January 30, 1972, at seventy-eight years of age, while he was vacationing from his home in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his widow, a son and a daughter, and six grandchildren. He is remembered at this Society with great affection, as he also is among his friends in many different places and disciplines.

J. E. M.

#### RAE MACCOLLUM SPENCER

Rae MacCollum Spencer, printer, was born in Milford, Massachusetts, on July 9, 1887, son of Hezekiah Albert, a Baptist minister, and Caroline (Whidden) Spencer. When Rae was three months old, his father died, leaving a widow and three babies. These four soon moved for a time to Worcester, where there were strong family relationships, before returning to family in Atlantic Canada where the mother went back to teaching to keep their bodies and souls together. In 1893 they moved to Charlton, Massachusetts, where he started school at age six with his mother as teacher in the one-room school. In five years the family moved to Worcester, and after a year and a half in the public schools, Rae was chosen to go to Worcester Academy on a full scholarship, but had to leave at the end of his sophomore year at age fifteen to help the family by working full time. One of his school chums was Warren Davis whose father had a printing business to which Rae ap-

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