

Robert B. Irwin

Robert Treat Beach is the author of an article in the *Montclair Times* of October 25, 1932, a fine two-column article entitled "Robert B. Irwin Has Waged Life-Long Fight to Aid Blind." It is No. 2 in the series, "Modern Montclairites," indicating an early appreciation of his citizenship in that neighbor of New York. He resides at 6 Elston Road, Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

He lost his eyes through illness at five years of age and was educated in the Washington School for the Blind and the University of Washington, graduating in the Class of 1906. Always self-dependent, he then received aid from a group of sympathetic Seattle friends and went to Harvard, where he earned the Master of Arts degree. Entering his chosen field, he obtained the position of Director of Education of the Blind at Cleveland, Ohio. His successful work spread to ten other Ohio cities. In 1923, the American Foundation for the Blind called him to New York to head up their Department of Research. There his work has expanded until he is now chairman of the Organizing Committee of the World Conference for the Blind. Thirty-three nations sent representatives to the first conference.

Sent abroad more than once on committee work, he counts his greatest achievement the help he gave toward the simplification and standardization of Braille printing now spread over the world. He is the author of books and laws. Congress has granted \$100,000 for the Library of Congress to print books for the blind. He drew the bill and Mrs. Pratt of New York "mothered" it through Congress. Many other achievements stand to his credit.

In 1917, he was married to Mary Blanchard of Cleveland who has valiantly aided her husband. Through all the years, he has maintained that same cheerfulness which caused his fellow students on the campus of the University of Washington to greet him affectionately as "Bob."

History of Medicine in the Pacific Northwest

In the October issue of this *Quarterly* notice was published of a series of articles on the "History of Medicine in the Pacific Northwest," begun in the August number of *Northwest Medicine*, Dr. Clarence A. Smith, editor. Further installments appeared in the numbers for September, October, November and the concluding portion is published in the December issue. The author, Dr. O. Larsell, Professor of Anatomy in the Oregon Medical School, has gathered a surprising amount of material as well as a goodly num-