

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-

ber of portraits. Physicians and surgeons will have the benefit of all this work but it is hoped that Doctor Larsell will follow it up with an edition in book form for the use of libraries, public and private. Such a book should receive a generous welcome.

Marine History

The *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December, 1932, enriches our records of marine history of the Northwest by two articles: "More About the Brig Pedler, 1813-1816" by Kenneth W. Porter; and "Peter Corney's Voyages, 1814-1817," by J. Neilson Barry. Both authors are well known for their researches in history.

The Pacific Historical Review

The first volume of this important publication has been completed with the issue for December. One article of especial interest is from a neighbor, Professor Walter N. Sage of the University of British Columbia, entitled "The Critical Period of British Columbia History, 1866-1871."

Pacific Affairs

The December issue of this welcome monthly from Honolulu is Number 12 of Volume V. An article, interesting to all on the Pacific Rim, is the announcement of *Pacific Islands Yearbook* begun by Pacific Publications, Ltd., Sydney, Australia. It contains 334 pages but no price was mentioned.

Honors for Judge Howay

The Royal Society of Canada has awarded to Judge F. W. Howay the J. B. Tyrrell Gold Medal for 1933, in recognition of his historical research. Those who were previously honored were Senator Thomas Chapais, of Montreal; the late Adam Shortt, of the Canadian Archives; Professor George M. Wrong, formerly Head of History in the University of Toronto; Lawrence J. Burpee, of Ottawa; and Pierre Georges Roy, Provincial Archivist of Quebec. The presentation to Judge Howay will be made at the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada next May.

On October 31, 1932, the Bar of New Westminster, British Columbia, presented to Judge Howay an illuminated address and a set of smoking pipes with congratulations on his having completed twenty-five years on the Bench in that City.