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THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT COLD SPRING HARBOR

By Robert Cushman Murphy
President, The Long Island Biological Association

Throughout more than half a century the Biological Laboratory has been fortunate in the character, even more than in the number, of its friends. These fall into two groups, one made up of men and women professionally devoted to scientific careers, who have studied, taught, attended the Symposia or conducted research at Cold Spring Harbor. Many of these maintain their membership in the association, even though they reside in educational communities scattered all over the United States or in foreign lands.

The second comprises neighbors (in the sense that they are chiefly Long Islanders), who represent public spirited and enlightened sentiment in the area.

The two classes overlap, of course. Within a few weeks we have lost a distinguished man who belonged to both, and who for fifty years had been in many ways the first of our friends and builders, namely, Dr. Charles B. Davenport. You will remember also that his son-in-law, Dr. Reginald G. Harris, was director of the laboratory until his death, and that all other members of his family have been closely tied up with the growth of our institution. Many of you knew Dr. Davenport so well that no words of mine could enhance your appreciation. We have endeavored to crystallize our joint thoughts in a resolution which appeared in Science of March 10, 1944.

Nothing in human affairs is more satisfactory than a tradition of sound heads and large hearts. It is an inspiring experience to look back through the annual reports of many years and to read the names of the men and women of science and of national and world affairs who have given time, energy and judgment toward the advancement of our work. Happily, some of those from the early days are still working with us, and others, such as Mr. Russell C. Leffingwell, Mr.