All the world knows of Doctor Marbut's contribution to soil science, his emphasis upon the study of soils in a systematic way, giving attention to their evolution in specific physical regions where distinctive climatic and other conditions determined their types or their qualities. He brought to the study of soil science a keen appreciation of geographical circumstances. This led the American Geographical Society to report his work in some detail, to encourage him with the award of the Cullum Geographical Medal, and other subventions in support of his field work. Readers of Doctor Marbut's work will recall the book published by the Society entitled "Vegetation and Soils of Africa." In this book he and Doctor Shantz made a most happy combination of knowledge that permitted the eventual publication of a distinctive work such as had been produced for no other continent. Despite the deficiencies to which the local specialist could point, this book furnished a fresh starting point for investigation on a wide scale and formed new points of view that reflected the creative work and detailed knowledge of Doctor Marbut and his associate.

The Society also had the privilege of supporting Doctor Marbut in his field work in South America and the results were published in the Geographical Review. We were amazed at the endurance of Doctor Marbut in covering so wide a territory in so short a time and we were delighted as usual with the results that he promptly submitted after his return. When Doctor Marbut returned from the Soil Congress in Russia a few years ago, he formulated his views also for publication in the Geographical Review.

Besides speaking of his integrity both as a man and as a scientist and of the help which we were able to give to his field work and by way of publication, I would speak of the affectionate regard of all members of the staff of the Society who dealt with him, for his qualities as a man. We have lost both a leader and a friend and we can only hope that the inspiration of his example will be reflected in the lives of other men.

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(Formerly Director of The American Geographical Society)