Introduction of Dr. Lorrin Riggs on the occasion of the Friedenwald Award in Ophthalmology

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It is indeed a privilege for me to introduce Dr. Lorrin Riggs, who has been chosen to receive the Friedenwald Award for distinguished research in paramedical fields of ophthalmology. It is a particular pleasure for me because I have known Lorrin Riggs since he was a sophomore at Dartmouth College, where he first became interested in the experimental psychology of vision. No doubt, in this regard he was influenced by the late Professor Karwoski of Dartmouth. I have, therefore, closely followed his entire career, and I have learned to respect him as an individual, as well as an original contributor to the science of vision.

Professor Riggs was born in Turkey of American missionary parents. His father was president of a small college in Turkey, during the troubled times when Christian minorities were being persecuted. His early youth was spent in the area near Beirut, Lebanon. His later youth was spent in and about Boston. Being fond of outdoor activities, he chose to attend Dartmouth College where he earned his bachelor's degree. He obtained his master's and doctor's degrees from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., where he worked with Prof. Clarence Graham. After receiving his Ph.D., he became a National Research Fellow in biological sciences at the Johnson Foundation for Medical Physics at the University of Pennsylvania with Dr. H. K. Hartline. He was later, for a time, an instructor at the University of Vermont; then a research associate, and finally professor of physiological psychology at Brown University in Providence, R. I., where he has been since 1945.

Doctor Riggs has many interests in the field of experimental psychology, principally in vision. In these areas, and because of his particular philosophical point of view regarding science, I consider him a true biophysicist. His special contributions have been made in psychophysics, electroretinography, the study of stabilized retinal images, and electrophysiology. He was one of the first in America, if not in the world, to develop suitable contact lenses for ERG studies. He was one of the first to develop optical arrangements with which the image on the retina could be stabilized, and therefore be independent of the small physiological nystagmoid movements of the eyes. The impact of these studies on our knowledge of the visual processes has been tremendous. It was on the basis of these contributions that he was made a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Doctor Riggs also was the recipient of the Warren medal for experi-

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mental psychology. I must also point out that, as a professor at the University, he has taught a number of graduate students who have later gone to other institutions, and made outstanding contributions to visual science.

Doctor Riggs' activities are not confined entirely to the laboratory, for his activities, even outside his own institution and professional societies, have been many. During World War II, he was a member of the National Defense Research Council, and a member of the Armed Forces National Research Council Committee on Vision. He has been a member of the National Institutes of Health Visual Sciences Study Section, the Council to Combat Blindness, the International Society of Clinical Electroretinography, and many others. He has had an extensive number of articles published, has contributed to many books, and served as associate editor to several psychological journals.

Doctor Riggs is married to the former Doris Robinson, who also is a psychologist. They have two children; one is a graduate of Northwestern University, and the other is in college now.

I am sure that if Dr. Jonas Friedenwald could witness this occasion, he would be very pleased with the choice of the recipient of this award tonight. Not only was Dr. Friedenwald an authority on ocular tension and pathology, but he was also extremely interested in physiology of the eye, which included visual physiology. It is with this thought in mind, Mr. President, that I deem Dr. Riggs extremely worthy of the Friedenwald Award, and it is my pleasure to introduce him to you at this time.