DR. OSWALD AVERY, BACTERIOLOGIST, 77

Special to The New York Times.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 20.—Dr. Oswald T. Avery, a bacteriologist long associated with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York, who was noted for his studies of pneumonia, died here today in the Vanderbilt University Hospital after a long illness. His age was 77. A brother and a sister survive.

Dr. Avery, who was born in Halifax, N. S., received an A. B. degree from Colgate in 1900 and a medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1904. He joined the Rockefeller Institute in 1913 as an assistant in the hospital department and was made a full member in 1923. Twenty years later he resigned as member emeritus.

In 1942 Dr. Avery received the $5,000 award of the Passano Foundation of Baltimore for his success in isolating pneumonia germs and classifying the disease into four types.

Among his other honors were the Lasker Award of the Public Health Association, 1947; the Kober Foundation Medal, 1940, and the Gold Medal of the New York Academy of Medicine, 1944.