

## IN MEMORIAM.

GEORGE D. TIMMONS.

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L. F. BENNETT.

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George Deming Timmons was born August 10, 1867, in Warren County, Indiana. He received his early education in the common schools of his county and in the Green Hill Seminary. He taught in the public schools from 1884 to 1895. He entered Valparaiso University in 1895 and graduated with honors from the Pharmacy class of 1897. Soon after graduation he was appointed Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Valparaiso. In 1909 he was promoted to the position of Head of the Department of Chemistry, and in 1912 he was made Dean of the School of Pharmacy. During this time he did graduate work in Chemistry in Chicago University.

Under Mr. Timmons' leadership the School of Pharmacy became one of the most important and most completely organized and best equipped departments of the University. His acquaintance with members of the profession, his activity to place the School of which he was Dean among the most efficient in the country, a constant and conscientious endeavor to be loyal to the best interest of the students, the University, the ethics of his chosen work, and the spirit of his subject, made of him a distinct personality.

A fellow teacher wrote of him: "A scholar without pedantry, a chemist whose world was not limited to chemical theories and formulæ, a teacher of a difficult subject who made it so attractive that even dull students got some insight into its laws and its poetry, a worker who never knew when to quit, a man with a heart big enough to feel the thrill of life intensely, its pathos, its heroism, its incongruities—such he seems as I try to set it down. Possibly, however, it was his amazing vitality and capacity for work that used to impress me most. So strong was this impression that he was the last man with whom I should have connected the idea of death. Of his remarkable gifts as a teacher I am not well qualified to speak, but I knew enough to be sure that he was a teacher born and made. He entered his classroom with a quick step of confidence and animation. He loved to teach—and to learn; and so it was that one would have sought far before finding a more alert, conscientious or inspiring teacher."

Mr. Timmons and I were colleagues for twenty years, and during all of this time we never had a single disagreement. I will always remember him for the many times he laid aside his own work in order that he might explain to me a chemical equation or reaction. He was

never too busy to help me. I can recall now how he would reach for his numerous volumes of chemistry and would say, "We'll see what" this one or that one "says on the subject," and then he would tell me what he thought was the best explanation. And what he did for me he did for many others. His whole life was one of helpfulness. His greatest pleasure seemed to be to help his students. He had had a hard struggle to reach his present position and was very sympathetic toward one who was trying to learn. He was too tenderhearted for his own good. When he should have been resting he was off on a trip with his students or giving them extra help or writing a helpful letter to someone who needed encouragement.

He was never idle a minute. Between terms he would carefully inspect the laboratories and, if anything needed fixing, he would do it himself rather than not have it ready for the new term. His mechanical skill was second only to his ability as a teacher.

Mr. Timmons was not only a chemist; he was a student of many of the poets and prose writers. He was a lover of Riley. His colleagues will never forget the address he gave upon Riley and his poems. It would have done credit to a profound student of literature.

He was a member of the Indiana Academy but a few years and he never took an active part. He was an active member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and of the American Chemical Society. He was serving his third term as a member of the Valparaiso City Council at the time of his death.

Mr. Timmons published, in 1914, "Experiments in General Chemistry, I and II," and, in 1917, "Qualitative Chemical Analysis." At the time of his death he was engaged in gathering data for a further publication.

Last May Mr. Timmons was given a vacation for the summer and was advised to take a much-needed rest. Instead, he took a position made vacant by the draft in the offices of the Eli Lilly Company of Indianapolis. He died July 18th after a week's illness of typhoid fever. His funeral was held in the Auditorium of Valparaiso University and was largely attended by both students and townspeople.

A local paper paid the following tribute: "The death of Prof. G. D. Timmons has left a great vacancy in the life of the city and the University. To his duties as alderman he brought an unflinching loyalty to the cause of clean politics and efficient government. Whatever made for progress and advancement always received his whole-hearted support and devotion. No man ever deserved more justly to be called public spirited in the best sense. In his work at the University, where he was head of the Pharmacy Department, he was indefatigable. The unstinted admiration of all those who were in any way associated with him is a glowing tribute to his sincerity and earnestness."