



ALFRED MONROE KENYON.

Alfred Monroe Kenyon was born December 10, 1869, on a farm near Medina, Ohio, not far distant from Cleveland. His boyhood life was spent in a humble but very comfortable country home. He attended the district school near by and later the high school at Medina. After graduating from the high school he taught for two or three years in the country schools. In the fall of 1890 he entered Hiram College and four years later was graduated with highest honors, receiving the A. B. degree. The following two years were spent as principal of the high school at Wellington, Ohio. In 1896-97 he was a graduate student in Western Reserve University and a teacher of freshman mathematics in Case School of Applied Science. The next year he entered Harvard University as a graduate student and university scholar and received his A. M. degree from that institution in the spring of 1898.

Professor Kenyon came to Purdue University as an instructor in mathematics in 1898. On account of the efficient service he rendered the University his promotion was rapid. In 1900 he was made Registrar, an office requiring about an hour a day at that time. In 1901 he was promoted to be Assistant Professor and in 1908 to be Professor of Mathematics, giving up his duties as Registrar. In this year he succeeded Professor C. A. Waldo as head of the department of mathematics, which position he occupied until his death.

Professor Kenyon was called to his former home by the death of his mother. On the return to Lafayette he was taken suddenly ill on an interurban car which he left at Ashland, Ohio, to seek medical aid. His condition became worse and he died within an hour after leaving the car. This occurred on July 27, 1921. The unexpected death of Professor Kenyon coming in the same week with the news of the loss of President Stone added greatly to the shock of the university community. Professor Kenyon was buried at Lafayette on July 29, 1921.

In 1897 Professor Kenyon was married to Grace Greenwood Finch. His wife and three children survive.

The productive part of Professor Kenyon's life was spent at Purdue University and it might properly be said that he gave his life for the University. He had a great part in shaping the policies and in moulding the character of the institution. His logical analysis and fair judgment on all problems of administration were recognized by all. He served frequently on important committees of the faculty and at the time of his death was a member of the executive committee. He was most successful as head of the department of mathematics. He laid down no rules of conduct and did not insist on special methods of teaching or of class management, but by a kind brotherly friendship inspired each member of his department to do his best. He always revealed a genuine human interest in the man as well as in the instructor. This

is the thing, that those of us, who knew him best, will miss most in his loss.

Professor Kenyon was a very successful teacher. He was thoroughly prepared for his work and was always able to present his subject in a clear and vigorous manner. He never lost the student's viewpoint and spent much time in working out in great detail problems which interested his students. Professor Kenyon's influence among students was not limited to the class room. He was ever ready to respond to any demand which in his opinion meant an uplift to the student life. He served as a member of the executive committee of the Y. M. C. A. and as financial secretary of the Purdue Union. Professor Kenyon lived as a man among men, he was no recluse. He took a keen and active interest in all matters of church and community.

Whatever ability as an investigator and research worker in mathematics Professor Kenyon may have had was largely covered up by administrative duties. He never lost interest in mathematics but by constant study, by attendance at mathematical meetings, by contact with mathematicians, kept in touch with modern mathematical problems. At intervals he found time to do short pieces of original work, some of which have been published in the *Proceedings of this Academy*, in the *American Mathematical Monthly* and elsewhere. He was joint author of texts on trigonometry and of a text for mathematics for students of science and agriculture.

Professor Kenyon was a member of this Academy, elected a Fellow in 1914; of the American Mathematical Society; of the Mathematical Association of America; of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; of the American Association of University Professors; and of the honorary scientific society, Sigma Xi.

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