

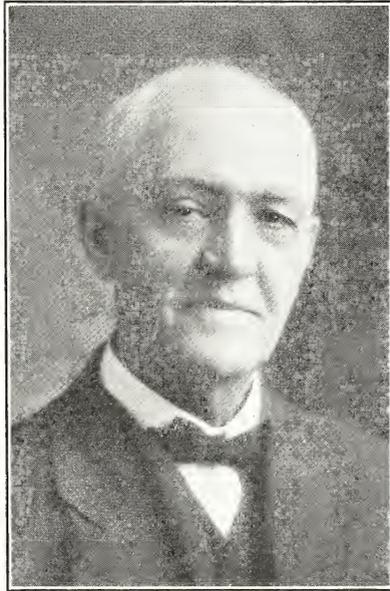
WILLIAM ALLEN MCBETH.

WHITE COUNTY, INDIANA.
OCTOBER 21, 1855.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.
FEBRUARY 19, 1924.

The Indiana State Normal School, during the past year, suffered the loss of two of its teachers—William Allen McBeth, Associate Professor of Geography and Geology and Robert Greene Gillum, Professor of Physics. Both of these instructors were valued members of the Indiana Academy of Science.

William Allen McBeth was born in White County, Indiana, October 21, 1855. He received his elementary education in the public schools of Carroll and Tippecanoe counties and at the old Battle Ground Collegiate Institute. Attracted as a young man to the profession of teach-



WILLIAM ALLEN MCBETH. 1855-1924.

ing, he entered the Indiana State Normal School to prepare for this work, graduating from this institution in 1895. He entered Wabash College, Crawfordsville, the next year, receiving the degree of Ph. B. at Wabash in June, 1896. Several years later this college conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

Professor McBeth began his work as a teacher at the age of 19 and with the exception of the years while a student in school and college, taught continuously until January, 1924, when a sudden break in his health made it necessary to leave his classroom. In 1897 he was called as Assistant Professor of Geography to the State Normal School.

He was soon advanced to the associate professorship which position he held at the time of his death. He was thus a teacher in the Indiana State Normal School during an unbroken period of twenty-seven years. He was always deeply impressed with the privilege which was his of coming in contact with so many young, prospective teachers and not long before his death stated that he had been interested in running over his record books to find that more than 16,000 students had been enrolled under his instruction.

Professor McBeth was, throughout his entire professional life, an interested member of the Indiana Academy of Science. He was elected Fellow of the Indiana Academy in 1904; served as vice-president of the Academy for two years and as treasurer from 1902 to 1909. His interest in the Academy of Science was reflected in the fact that he seldom failed to appear on its program with one or more papers dealing with some first-hand observations in his chosen field. His special interest lay naturally in his own state and there were probably few men in Indiana better acquainted with the detailed geography of this commonwealth. He spent a great deal of time on field excursions, sometimes alone, sometimes with other geographers but most frequently with his own students, tramping over many of the interesting spots of Indiana geography. His scientific papers marked the large range of geographical subjects which had caught his interest. On account of his familiarity with his native state, he was asked to write the Indiana Supplement to Frye's "Geography", one of the leading textbooks in geography of the day.

A poetic vein in his nature found expression in a number of poems and short prose sketches, in which he tried to blend some ethical or artistic suggestion with the scientific observations that had come to him from his study of nature. Professor McBeth reflected to his last day the sturdy pioneer atmosphere of his early youth. He often chose as his theme for some chapel talk before the students of his school, some "old-fashioned virtue". Deeply religious, he was an active worker in the religious and charitable organizations of his city. In his classroom he was an inspiring teacher bringing to his work the spirit of the true naturalist.

Because of his love of geology, a large red granite boulder from the Darlington Moraine has been placed as a fitting monument over his grave in the cemetery lot at New Richmond, Indiana.

LIST OF PAPERS BY WILLIAM ALLEN MCBETH.

An Elevated Beach and Recent Coastal Plains Near Portland, Maine. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1898, p. 72.

Wabash River and Valley in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Inland Educator, Vol. 6, pp. 112-115.

The Physical Geography of the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1899, pp. 157-161.

An Interesting Boulder. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1899, p. 162.

The Development of the Wabash Drainage System and the Recession of the Ice Sheet in Indiana. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1900, pp. 184-92.

A Theory to Explain the Western Indiana Boulder Belt. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1900, pp. 192-193.

Wabash River Terraces in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1901, pp. 237-243.

History of the Wea Creek, Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1901, pp. 244-247.

Method in Geography. Educator Journal, Vol. 2, 1901-1902, pp. 490-491.

An Esker in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1904, pp. 45-46.

Notes on the Delta of the Mississippi River. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1904, pp. 47-49.

Geography in the High School. Educator Journal, Vol. 6, 1905-1906, pp. 54-56.

The Tippecanoe, An Infantile Drainage System. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1909, pp. 1-3.

Shawnee Mound, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, as a Glacial Alluvial Cone. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1914, pp. 385-388.

Loess and Sand Dune Deposits in Vigo County, Indiana. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1915, pp. 184-188.

Volume of the Ancient Wabash River. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1915, pp. 189-190.

Physiography and War. Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 1918, pp. 60-62.

Geography as the Basis of Nature Work in the Elementary Grades. Educator Journal, Vol. 2, 1901-1902, pp. 69-71, 116-117.

L. J. RETTGER.