

THOMAS CARWIN MENDENHALL.

HANOVERTON, OHIO.

OCTOBER 4, 1841.

RAVENNA, OHIO.

MARCH 22, 1924.

Thomas Carwin Mendenhall, who died at Ravenna, Ohio, March 22, 1924, was an active and valued member of the Indiana Academy of Science during the period of his residence in Indiana from 1886 to 1889, while President of Rose Polytechnic Institute. He served as President of the Indiana Academy of Science in 1890. Though his period of active residence in our midst was brief his influence upon scientific pursuit and educational development was so profound and quickening that it is still strong today. Wherever there was even the slightest interest in scientific thought and study he was active in fostering it and gave freely of his time and energy to advance it. His broad and deep scientific knowledge, his enthusiasm, power as teacher and lecturer, and delightful personality made his work effective to a degree rarely attained.

He combined to an unusual extent genius in scientific research and executive ability, manifest in all the various positions he so successfully filled.

During his residence in Indiana, aside from his educational activities, he carried on investigational work in atmospheric electricity and seismology, much of which has been published in scientific journals. He was fertile in devising apparatus and appliances and was a finished experimentalist.

Doctor Mendenhall was born in Hanoverton, Ohio, October 4, 1841. He received his early education in the public schools of Stark County, Ohio; the Normal School of Lebanon, Ohio, and as a special student in Western Reserve University. From 1862 to 1866 he was instructor in Physics and Mathematics in the High School, Salem, Ohio; Superintendent of Schools, Middletown, Ohio, 1866 to 1868; Instructor in Physical Science, High School, Columbus, Ohio, 1868 to 1873; the first professor of Physics in Ohio State University, 1873 to 1878; Professor of Physics, Imperial University of Japan, at Tokio, 1878 to 1881. Returned to the Ohio State University as Professor of Physics, 1881, remaining until 1884; Professor of Electricity, U. S. Signal Corps, 1884 to 1886; President and Professor of Physics, Rose Polytechnic Institute, 1886 to 1889; Chief, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1889 to 1894; President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1894 to 1901; retiring from active work because of failure in health in 1901, he spent the next 11 years in Europe regaining his strength.

He served on the Bering Sea and Alaska Boundary Commission with distinguished ability in 1891 and 1892. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Science in 1887; President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1889; Executive Committee of the International Electrical Congress, Chicago, in 1898, where he formulated the resolution establishing the Electrical Units of Measure. He was awarded a gold medal by the American Geographical Society for his work in Cartography and Gravity determination in 1901; a

gold medal by the National Education Society of Japan in 1911, and had conferred upon him by the Emperor of Japan the Order of the Sacred Treasurer. He was awarded a gold medal as Honorary Member of the Franklin Institute for his scientific work in 1918. He wrote a small volume entitled a "Century in Electricity," which appeared in 1887 and in its charm of style, historical accuracy and thoroughness, may serve as a model for popular science writers. Doctor Mendenhall's research work is published mainly in government reports and scientific journals. The half seconds pendulum designed by him for gravity determination is still the accepted instrument in geodetic survey work. Although Doctor Mendenhall did not take a university or scholastic degree in course, he was the recipient of several honorary degrees; Ph. D. from Ohio State University; Sc. D., Rose Polytechnic; LL. D., Michigan University and Western Reserve University.

To recount all of his activities during his long and busy life would exceed reasonable limits of this brief sketch. Until his last days he was active in educational works as member of Board of Trustees of the Ohio State University. Ever abreast with scientific and educational progress he remained youthful and useful to the end. It is given to but few men to count so many friends—student admirers and appreciative scientists as was the privilege of Doctor Mendenhall, and here in Indiana all who came in contact with him hold his memory in affectionate and highest esteem—grateful, that even for a few years he dwelled in our midst as an active worker in the field of science and education. Bronze tablets have been erected to his memory and recognition of service in Rose Polytechnic Institute, Ohio State University, High School of Salem, Ohio, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

C. L. MEES.