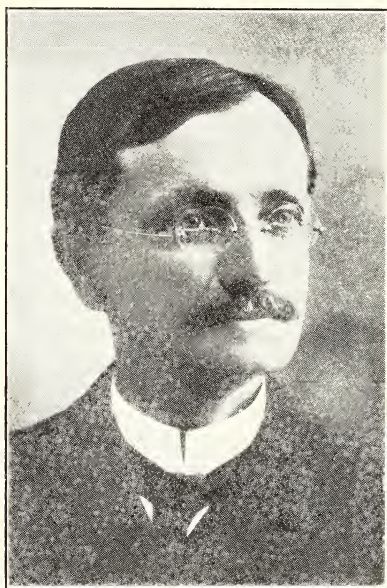


## CHARLES WESLEY HARGITT

DEARBORN COUNTY, INDIANA.  
MARCH 28, 1852.

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.  
JUNE 11, 1927.

Among the scientific men whom Indiana delights to honor none ranks higher than Charles Wesley Hargitt who died June 11, 1927, at his home in Syracuse, New York, after a brief illness. The formative period of his life was spent in Indiana. Among the rugged hills of Dearborn County near the village of Bright, on a farm, he first saw the light March 28, 1852. His parents, Thomas and Mary Hargitt, were an unusually strong type of religious people of the pioneer day. While on the



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farm he became a lover of nature. The flowers and trees and rocks he early learned to observe and think about and ever after it was his delight to roam over these hills of Dearborn County in search of the secrets of nature.

His early education was secured in the rural schools of his community. He became a leader and took part in the life of his neighborhood. He then went to Indianapolis where he completed the grammar and high school work. He then began teaching in the rural schools of his native county. After teaching several years, he entered Moores Hill College in 1873 under the presidency of Dr. F. A. Hester and graduated under that of Dr. J. P. D. John, receiving the degree of B. S. After graduation he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, serving effectively for seven years in Indiana and Texas. Cer-

tain throat trouble developed which made him decide to enter the ranks of the college professor.

To prepare for his new work he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, in 1884, where he remained until the summer of 1885. He was then offered the chair of Natural Science in his Alma Mater, which he accepted and filled with distinction until 1888 when he resigned to accept the chair of Biology and Geology in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. While here he pursued graduate work in Ohio University, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1890. In 1891 he resigned to accept the chair of Biology and Geology in Syracuse University, succeeding Dr. L. M. Underwood. Later Botany and Geology were organized into separate departments so that he became professor of Zoology and Director of the Museum of Natural History. He remained at the head of this department until 1921, when he withdrew from the headship of the department and was made Research Professor in Zoology, devoting his entire time to study and writing until his death.

"He was active in many other phases of professional, scientific and educational work, serving as Assistant Director of the Cold Spring Biological Laboratory, N. Y., 1891-93, and trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., 1900-21. He studied in Europe at the Zoological Station at Naples in 1894, 1903, 1910. He was instrumental in organizing the Onandaga Academy of Science of the New York State Teachers Association and its president in 1899; vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and chairman of the Zoological Sciences in 1902. Membership in scientific organizations included the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of Zoologists, American Society of Naturalists, American Genetic Association, Washington Academy of Sciences, Indiana Academy of Science, and others. His membership in the Indiana Academy of Science was retained for many years after leaving the state and interest in its work and membership was maintained to the end of his life. It was with deep regret that he could not attend the spring meeting of the Academy at New Harmony, May 13-14, 1927. He deeply appreciated a telegram of cheer and greeting sent to him by the Academy at this session."

Dr. Hargitt was original in his thinking. From boyhood he exhibited the inquisitive turn of mind. This led him to observe nature closely. It was perfectly natural for him to delight in research work. The laboratory became his workshop, and some of the secrets of nature were discovered by his keen eyes and mind. To carry out this desire, he spent much time in the marine laboratories as well as in his own.

As a teacher he exerted his greatest influence. Not only did he understand his subjects thoroughly but he had an enthusiastic scientific spirit which was imparted to his students. They could not resist this impelling enthusiasm. Furthermore, he worked in such close touch with his students in the lecture room, in the laboratory and in the field that they were delighted to study the deeper truths of nature. Moreover he was a lover of his fellow men as well as a devoted follower of the Great Teacher and warmth of personality exerted a strong influence

upon all who came under his instruction. On account of this religious attitude, a splendid and sane influence on spiritual and scientific questions was developed in the biological department. The spirit of discord between science and religion did not exist. He wrote many articles for the publication in national papers to stimulate and instruct the people in right thinking on these controversial questions.

As he was a strong teacher, so was he a true educator. He as a member of the faculty was one of the leaders who helped to mold the policies of that university. The courses of study came up for revision during his early days in Syracuse University. He was a strong advocate of modernizing these courses so as to be in harmony with the leading universities of the country.

He was the author of *Outlines of General Biology* as a guide to laboratory study. It has gone through several editions and is considered one of the best published. His first scientific paper read before the Indiana Academy was on "Recent Notes on *Scaphiopus holbrookii* in 1888". From that day to the day of his death his pen had been busy writing for the scientific papers and governmental publications. About 100 such articles have been published.

He was frequently called upon to give lectures before scientific bodies as well as before popular audiences. All his life he found occasions to fill the pulpits of various churches. Many of these sermons and lectures were published. One of the finest articles of appreciation of Doctor Hargitt was recently published in *The Post Standard* of Syracuse by Prof. W. H. Mace, the historian who went to Syracuse the same year as did Dr. Hargitt. They were close friends during all those years.

The author of this sketch is in a position to judge of the life and work of this good man. He delights to call him his scientific father for he was a student under him while he taught in Moores Hill College. His impress was made in the laboratory and it continued throughout life. A correspondence was kept up all through the years and was rich in friendship and scientific lore.

As a man in society he was always interested in the highest culture of the people in home, in school, in church, and in state. Character building meant more to him than anything else. All his writings reflected the scientific mind and the cultured gentleman.

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