

OLIVER PEEBLES JENKINS

BANTAM, OHIO.
November 3, 1850.

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA.
January 9, 1935.

Perhaps few of us recall Dr. Jenkins—what a splendid teacher he was! An active mind—original, enthusiastic, and inspirational—and a fund of humor were outstanding characteristics. Who could not profit from his instruction? To those of us who were much with him he was a delightful companion and a lovable friend, in addition to his being a great naturalist.

He was born at Bantam, Ohio, November 3, 1850, and died at Stanford University January 9, 1935 in his eighty-fifth year. He was buried at Palo Alto, California. He married Elizabeth R. Hester, formerly of Brookville, Indiana, where the writer and his wife, Mary Reynolds, attended Brookville College with her. His widow and two sons survive.

He graduated from Moores Hill (now Evansville) College in 1869 and, after serving as teacher, high school principal, and superintendent in the public schools of Indiana, Wisconsin, and California, he returned, in 1876, to Moores Hill College as professor, where he remained for twelve years. That institution conferred upon him advanced and honorary degrees; he was also honored with a degree from Indiana University. He became a member of the faculty of the Indiana State Normal School, at Terre Haute in 1883, and left there to become Professor of Biology at DePauw University in 1886. He remained at DePauw until 1891, when he became a member of the faculty of Leland Stanford Jr. University at the time of its founding. He remained in this position until he retired as Professor Emeritus of Physiology in 1916.

He was for many years associated with David Starr Jordan on collection expeditions and with Barton W. Evermann in his work on fishes. His writings included works on the fishes of the United States and of Hawaii and on the nervous system of the invertebrates. He was also the author of the Indiana State series of textbooks on physiology.

Dr. Jenkins was one of the founders of the Indiana Academy of Science and its first treasurer. Faithful in all his duties and active in all the interests of the Academy, he was the life of every meeting that he attended. His humor will be remembered in connection with the seining at Brookville, in 1886, with the meeting at Indianapolis, when he



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resigned as Curator of Invertebrates, on an occasion when Maurice Thompson discussed two species of woodpeckers, and again at Waveland in discussing some specimens collected.

He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Biological Society of Washington, the Washington Academy of Sciences, the California Academy of Sciences, the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Naturalists, the Cooper Ornithological Club, and the Western Society of Naturalists.

It is fitting that we should have also the words of one of his more recent colleagues, Dr. Elliott, of Stanford University, at the funeral in Stanford Memorial Church:

The passing of another member of the pioneer Stanford faculty comes as a sharp reminder of the lapse of time and of the transitory nature of this human life of ours. We gasp a little at the closed door as we realize that the warm handclasp, the greetings, and the friendly talk are over.

But, when life has been long—far beyond the scriptural threescore years and ten,—and the work is done, and only the days of waiting and suffering are here, we cannot ask that they be lengthened.

This is not the time, nor do we wish here and now, to recall the doings and the strivings which make up the long record of this life. But we may turn back and, looking down the corridors of memory, try to realize what it has all meant to us, who were his friends and neighbors, and to the wider circle which he touched.

Dr. Jenkins was one of the three department heads selected by Dr. Jordan and placed over the biological sciences at the beginning of the University. They were all men in his own field, whom he knew thoroughly, with whom he had worked, and each his first choice for the position. He had made no mistakes.

Dr. Jenkins was a great teacher, because he exalted his department and because he was able to carry over to his students his patience, his love of exactness, and his deep conviction that, in its time and place, no other work could be more worth while.

He was staunchest of all, perhaps, in his devotion to Dr. Jordan's fundamental ideas in establishing the University. He never wavered or compromised in his advocacy of freedom of action and freedom of choice in school and college. He was reformer as well as teacher. Indefatigable in attendance at teachers' institutes and other educational gatherings, and at the Schoolmasters' Club, he was always proposing or defending reforms in educational ways and methods. Unassuming, companionable, friendly, his pungent strictures could be enjoyed whether or not one might go so far.

Dr. Jenkins was a notable member of the Stanford Academic Council, not that he said very much in Council meetings, but, when he did speak, his words were weighty, and his dry, salty wit punctured right through to the bottom of any confused structure that might have been raised.

Dr. Jenkins was a good colleague and a good companion. The early pioneers were loyal. They took good fortune and evil fortune in the same spirit. They did not shirk. They made bricks whether there was any straw or not. There was no greater among them than Dr. Jenkins—in the quality of devotion to Stanford ideals, of willing co-operation, in honor preferring others, in the respect and affection of students and teachers. In parting, I think we have toward Professor Jenkins a more tender feeling, perhaps, than toward some of the giants in his company. We rejoice while we sorrow, in the conviction that he now is, and will be, so long as memories last, honored among his peers in the Stanford Pantheon.

AMOS W. BUTLER.