

While a boy, living on the farm, Mr. Wright acquired a deep love for nature, which was manifest throughout his life. He began his teaching career in the rural schools of Hamilton County, later teaching in Lapel High School, where he himself had been a student. Mr. Wright also taught in the high schools at Noblesville, Bloomington, and Vincennes, and in the vocational department of Indiana University. At the time of his death he was a teacher in Arsenal Technical High School of Indianapolis, where he had taught for nine years. At Indiana University he majored in botany and did considerable work in drawing, in which art he excelled. Later he taught mechanical drawing for several years. While at Technical High School his old love for the out-of-doors led him to take up the teaching of botany.

It is as a teacher that Mr. Wright performed the greatest work of his life. He early became a Christian, and in the rôle of teacher he had a great longing to inspire in his students a desire for the high ideals to which he himself aspired. Many are the boys and girls whose lives have been deeply influenced by the sincere and sympathetic interest which Mr. Wright took in their success.

In his church life he always took an active part in Sunday School, Epworth League, and he attended other church services faithfully. In his civil life he was always active in everything that was for the community welfare.

During his last illness, which lasted several months, his most intense longing was to get back to his classes at Technical and to carry on with his life's work.

Besides his family he leaves a host of friends who will mourn his untimely death. By his death the Academy of Science has lost a loyal member, and we desire to record our high regard of his life that his family and friends may know our appreciation.

C. F. Cox, Indianapolis, Indiana.

FRANK CASPAR WAGNER.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.
OCTOBER 5, 1864.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.
NOVEMBER 21, 1928.

The subject of this sketch, Frank Caspar Wagner, President of Rose Polytechnic Institute, lost his life on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 21, 1928. As he was leaving the grounds of the Institute his automobile was struck by an interurban car and he was instantly killed. Thus was brought to an untimely end the career of an unusually loveable man of noble character and of marked attainment in his chosen field.

He was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he received his early education in the public schools of that city. At the remarkably early age of 19 he received in 1884 the degree of A. M. from the University of Michigan, and in 1885 he was granted the further degree of B. S. in Mechanical Engineering from that University. In 1924 the honorary degree of Sc. D. was conferred upon him by Rose Polytechnic Institute upon the occasion of his inauguration as President, and in 1927

the University of Michigan conferred upon him the honorary degree of Eng. D.

After his graduation in 1885 he entered the employ of the Thompson-Houston Electric Co. as erecting engineer, his work being principally located in Mexico City. He remained with this firm until he was called back to the University of Michigan in 1890 as Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. In 1896 he came to Rose Polytechnic Institute as Associate Professor of Steam and Electrical Engineering. He held successively at that Institute the titles of Professor of Steam Engineering, of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and, when in 1921 the



FRANK CASPAR WAGNER.

two departments were separated, he was made Professor of Mechanical Engineering, which he retained until elected to the presidency of Rose Polytechnic Institute in 1923. These successive advances in title and rank are indicative of the degree of recognition of his talents as an engineer and an educator as well as of the esteem in which he was held by those connected with that Institute.

Aside from his work as an educator he was widely known as an engineer of note. His services as a consulting engineer were in almost constant demand and he had a wide practice, especially in the fields of steam engineering and heat transfer. He specialized particularly in patent suits and in patent investigations, in which latter field some of his most brilliant work has been done. These served to give him a national reputation and to make heavy demands upon his time and energy, but they brought a freshness of thought and a breadth of understanding to his classroom, which, in turn, made his instruction very

real to his students. During the World War his services as an engineer were utilized by his government, which called upon him for service as Engineer on the U. S. Fuel Administration for the State of Indiana.

He was most public spirited and gave freely of his time and his best efforts to aid every worthy cause of a civic nature, being especially interested in those appertaining to charitable undertakings. He was deeply religious and a believer in practical Christianity, which meant to him carrying it into his everyday doings; he lived his belief.

The range of his interests is indicated by the following: He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; a member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; of the American Society of Electrical Engineers; of the Indiana Engineering Society, of which he was President, and of the Indiana Academy of Science. He was also a member of Tau Beta Pi. In addition he served upon the following local organizations engaged in civic work: The Chamber of Commerce of Terre Haute, the Smoke Abatement League, the Red Cross Society, and the Community Fund, of which he was President.

Such a man as that described above could not fail to leave a deep impression upon all with whom he came in contact. Possessed of a genial, kindly, and helpful nature, having deep convictions and a high sense of honor, he was beloved by his townsmen, by his faculty, and especially by his students, who will carry throughout their lives a keen appreciation of his kindness, of his humanity, of his intellectual power, and of his greatness of soul.

“Large was his Soul; as large a soul as e'er
Submitted to inform a body here;
High as the place 'twas shortly in Heaven to have,
But low and humble as his grave;
So high that all the virtues there did come
As to the chiefest seat
Conspicuous, and great;
So low that for me too it made a room.”

JOHN WHITE, Rose Polytechnic Institute.