

NECROLOGY

DOMINIC JOSEPH CANNON

Scranton, Pennsylvania
May 4, 1879

Notre Dame, Indiana
May 4, 1939

The Reverend Dominic Joseph Cannon, C.S.C., received his early education in the parochial schools of his native city, Scranton. His collegiate studies were made at Notre Dame and his theological course at Holy Cross College, an institution affiliated with the Catholic University of America in our national capital.

He was ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 1913. Until illness forced his retirement, he was active in the classrooms and laboratories of the institution, the Congregation of the Holy Cross, and as a member he took charge of the religious community. After a very successful career as teacher of physics in the University of Portland, Oregon, he transferred to the University of Notre Dame.

Father Cannon, while recognizing the value of research and doing all in his power to foster it among his students, was pre-eminently a teacher. He was at his best in the lecture hall, and it is as an inspiring and inspired teacher that his students and his colleagues will remember him.—*F. J. Wenninger.*

HENRY CHANDLER COWLES

Kensington, Connecticut
February 27, 1869

Chicago, Illinois
September 12, 1939

On September 12, 1939, there passed away in Chicago one of the most prominent members of the Academy, Henry Chandler Cowles. Born in Kensington, Connecticut, on February 27, 1869, he received his early education in the schools of his native state and then entered Oberlin College, from which he graduated in 1893. He taught in Gates College for a year and then went to the University of Chicago on a fellowship with geology as his major interest. However, with the reorganization of the Botany Department at Chicago in 1896, when John M. Coulter was called there as Head, Dr. Cowles came under the influence of Dr. Coulter and a little later Charles Reid Barnes, two of the celebrated ABC triumvirate in botany, all members of the Indiana Academy, with the result that he received his doctorate in 1898, with plant ecology as his major interest. He became a member of the Department of Botany in Chicago in 1897, beginning as an assistant and finally becoming a full professor in 1911. He was chairman of the Department from 1925 to 1934, when he was retired with the rank of Professor-Emeritus.

A natural-born teacher, affable and charming in personality, and a man who attracted students to him through his jovial disposition and deep, masterly insight into his subject, Dr. Cowles became a leader and

world authority in ecology. The Ecological Society of America was founded largely through his efforts in 1914, and he wrote numerous articles and several books and textbooks which are classic. In recognition of his leadership in plant ecology he was made president of the section of phytogeography and ecology at the meeting of the International Congress at Cambridge, England, in 1930. An exponent of the field trip method of study and research, he frequently led students on field expeditions lasting from days to several weeks.

Dr. Cowles received many honors. He was president of the Botanical Society of America in 1922, president of the Association of American Geographers in 1910, vice-president of Section G of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1913, president of the Ecological Society in 1918, president of the Chicago Academy of Sciences from 1923 to 1934, and a member of many other scientific organizations. He was associate-editor of the *Botanical Gazette* from 1898 to 1926 and its editor from 1926 to 1934. Starred in *American Men of Science*, he was further honored by having the July, 1935, issue of *Ecology*, official journal of the Ecological Society, dedicated to him, it being filled with articles by his students and colleagues from this and several European countries.

Dr. Cowles was one of that distinguished group of American scientists who received their inspiration and encouragement from Indiana's celebrated scientists of the Jordan-Arthur-Coulter period. Primarily field men, who went directly to nature for their study, this great group—Jordan, Arthur, Coulter, Eigenmann, Branner, Everman, Cowles, and others—has left such an impression on modern science that their activity and interest in the Indiana Academy of Science redounds to its glory. This group is rapidly passing from the scene, and, with the death of Henry Chandler Cowles, international science again suffers an irreparable loss.

MORTON W. FORDICE

Putnam County, Indiana
May 26, 1864

Putnam County, Indiana
March 1, 1939

Morton W. Fordice, one of the founders of the Indiana Academy of Science, was born on May 26, 1864, on a farm in Putnam County, Indiana, and passed away near the place of his birth on March 1, 1939. Entering Indiana University as a young man, he early came under the influence of David Starr Jordan, under whose supervision as a special student he wrote a number of papers on ichthyology published in the *Journal of the Philadelphia Academy of Science* and elsewhere. Returning to the farm shortly after his graduation in 1886, he maintained throughout the rest of his life a love for and an interest in scientific farming and scientific experimentation. In 1893 he married Miss Ella G. Williams, who survives him, together with two sons and two daughters. Both he and Mrs. Fordice were active in Republican politics of the county and district. While Mr. Fordice had been inactive in the Academy for many years, he nevertheless was actively interested in the scientific

progress of the state and was recognized as a progressive, influential farmer of broad interests, sterling integrity, and civic worth. His passing was a distinct loss to the community in which he had spent his whole life.

THOMAS EDWARD MASON

Boone Grove, Indiana
October 1, 1883

Chicago, Illinois
May 26, 1939

On May 26, 1939, the Indiana educational world was shocked to hear of the death in a Chicago hospital of Dr. Thomas E. Mason, a native of Indiana and a member of the Purdue University staff for twenty-five years. Dr. Mason, born October 1, 1883, in Boone Grove, Indiana, was identified with Indiana education all his life. Graduating from Indiana University in 1905, he became a Fellow at Indiana in 1911 and received the A.M. degree in 1912 and the Ph.D. degree in 1914, being the second person to receive the Ph.D. degree in mathematics from that university. He joined the mathematics staff at Purdue in 1914. During the World War he served on the Y.M.C.A. staff in France. He also spent two years in study in England. His chief interest in mathematics was in number theory and difference equations, and he had written and published several research papers in those fields. He had offered graduate courses in mathematics at Purdue for a number of years and was a joint author of two textbooks which are still widely used.

Dr. Mason was very active in scientific circles in the state and was active in the formation of the mathematics section of the Academy. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the American Association of University Professors and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was very active in church work, being a member of the Presbyterian church, and for many years he was superintendent of the Sunday School of that denomination in Lafayette.

He was twice married, his first wife passing away in 1936. He is survived by his second wife and two daughters.

Thomas E. Mason was one of those rare individuals of broad, scholarly interests, whose home was always open to his friends. Many a lonely instructor just coming to Purdue was welcomed by Dr. and Mrs. Mason and received encouragement and friendly advice until he was established. A lover of art and rare books, his home was a place of interest to those who enjoyed his hospitality. He was a born teacher of fine and gracious personality, with a large following of students and alumni, and with his death Purdue loses one of its outstanding, influential men.

ARTHUR G. MITTEN

Brighton, England
March 13, 1866

Goodland, Indiana
November 23, 1938

Arthur G. Mitten was born on March 13, 1866, in Brighton, England, and came to the United States with his parents when he was nine years

old. At the age of twenty he entered the employ of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad and remained with that company until 1920, when he returned to Goodland and engaged in the purchase and improvement of numerous Benton county farms. A brother of the late Thomas E. Mitten, of the Philadelphia Transit Company, he was at the time of his death president of the Mitten Memorial Library and of Foster Park, both gifts to the city of Goodland by his brother. He was affiliated with the Goodland Methodist Church.

Mr. Mitten was deeply interested in history and archeology and was well known as a collector of historical data. He had served as a vice-president of the Indiana Historical Society. On account of his extensive researches in the history of the old Northwest Territory and William Henry Harrison, he was honored by Vincennes University with the degree of Doctor of Letters.

He was married in 1889 to Miss Adda J. Britt, who survives him; a son and a daughter also survive him.

Arthur G. Mitten was a typical dignified, distinguished English gentleman whose home was full of interest on account of its library and scientific collections. A most gracious host and a friend to everybody in his community, he was ever alert to civic needs and did much to help his community, which endeared him to all those who knew him. In his death Indiana suffers the loss of one of its leading citizens, and the Academy loses a worthy member whose intense interest in science, pursued as a hobby, accomplished much of scientific and historical value.

JOHN L. REEVES

Kentland, Indiana
September 7, 1913

Lafayette, Indiana
June 2, 1939

John L. Reeves was born in Kentland, Indiana, on September 7, 1913, and died of an accidentally self-inflicted gunshot wound on June 2, 1939. Most of his boyhood was spent in Lafayette, but he later moved with his parents to Brookston where he graduated from high school. Becoming interested in science, he entered Purdue University where he received his degree in biology in 1936. On account of the excellence of his work he received an assistantship in the Biology Department at Purdue, which allowed him to continue his studies so that he received his Master's degree in 1938. Early in 1939 he resigned his assistantship in order to accept a teaching position in Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, Michigan. He had just returned home on his vacation a short time before his death. He is survived by his parents.

John L. Reeves was a young man of considerable scientific promise who had just begun an interesting career with that enthusiasm and persistence which was earning for him the admiration and respect of his fellow workers. In his untimely passing the cause of science suffered the loss of a young man whose scientific future seemed assured.

ELDYN EVERETT VANLONE

Jefferson, Wisconsin
January 11, 1895

West Lafayette, Indiana
April 5, 1939

In the passing of Eldyn E. VanLone from a heart attack while officiating at an installation meeting of the Optimist Service Club, on April 5, 1939, Purdue University lost one of its outstanding younger scientists. Dr. VanLone was born at Jefferson, Wisconsin, on January 11, 1895, and spent his early life there. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1923; he also received his Master's degree in 1924 and his Ph.D. degree in 1931 from that university. He was an assistant in genetics at Wisconsin until he came to Purdue in 1932 as assistant professor of animal husbandry. In 1926 he was married to Miss Adeline Bakker, who survives him, together with his mother, one brother, and one sister.

Dr. VanLone had done and was doing outstanding research work in animal husbandry and had published a number of noteworthy papers on mammalian genetics, sterility, and the physiology of reproduction. Possessed of a pleasing personality, a thorough knowledge of his subject, and unusual teaching ability, he had attracted to him a number of students who were interested in genetical research in the breeding of live stock. He was also interested in the social and civic life of his community and was a leader in civic club activities, being a past president of the Lafayette Optimist Club.

He held memberships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Genetics Society, the American Society of Animal Production, Sigma Xi, and Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity. Dr. VanLone was a veteran of the World War.

It is only with genuine regret that one records the passing of a scientist of Dr. VanLone's ability and prospect, and his loss to Purdue University, the Academy, and the state will be keenly felt.