EDWIN SHELDON JOHONNOTT.

SOLON MILLS, ILLINOIS.
NOVEMBER 9, 1868.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.
JANUARY 2, 1925.

Edwin Sheldon Johonnott, for many years an active member of this Academy and Professor of Physics in Rose Polytechnic Institute, died January 2, 1925, as the result of injury in a collision between his automobile and an interurban railway car, as he was driving into the campus of Rose Polytechnic Institute.

EDWIN SHELDON JOHONNOTT.

Doctor Johonnott was born in Solon Mills, Illinois, November 9, 1868. His father was a farmer so that he received his early education in district schools in Richmond, Illinois, and in Woodstock Academy. After his graduation he taught in the district schools of Solon Mills for two years. On the farm he showed mechanical ability, developed habits of close observation in nature and as teacher acquired habits of study. He there felt the urge for higher education in natural science and mechanical studies and in 1889 entered Rose Polytechnic Institute.

In Rose Polytechnic he at once showed that earnestness of purpose, capacity for hard work, and exceptional ability which characterized his entire career. At the close of the Sophomore year, though of most sturdy physique, there developed an affection of sight as a result of too close application and confinement, which necessitated his withdrawal

from college in 1891. He re-entered in 1892 with Junior standing, earning honorable mention in his class.

He graduated in 1893, with the degree of B. S. in Electrical Engineering. At commencement he was awarded the Heminway Gold Medal for highest scholastic standing and most commendable studentship for the entire four-year course.

After graduation he accepted a position as assistant patent examiner in the Patent Office at Washington. He was, however, soon convinced that this field offered no real opportunity for scientific study and development and in 1894 accepted the professorship of Mathematics and Physics in Drury College, Springfield, Mo. During his service there he became more and more imbued with the spirit of research, for which in that position there seemed but little scope, so in 1895 he resigned and entered Johns Hopkins University, as graduate student, to specialize in physics and mathematics. Under the inspiring influence of Henry Rowland and Joseph Ames, he rapidly advanced and developed and determined to make the study of physics his life work.

Impressed by the achievements of A. A. Michelson, especially in the field of interferometer methods in measurement, he transferred to Chicago University in 1897. He attracted the attention of Doctor Michelson very soon and at his suggestion began the study of thin liquid films, especially the measurement of the thickness of the black spot appearing just before rupture, by interferometer methods. In this investigation he showed wonderful patience, versatility and experimental skill. This work gave him a recognized standing as experimental physicist, constituted a real contribution to scientific data and the results are accepted as classic, quoted in most works on molecular physics.

He carried on other studies in molecular physics during this period and presented a thesis on the "Viscosity of Water" for his M. S. degree, which was conferred by Rose Polytechnic in 1897. In 1898 the degree of Ph. D. was granted him by Chicago University and he was made assistant in Physics to Doctor Michelson. In 1899 he was brought to Rose Polytechnic Institute where he served with greatest faithfulness and distinction as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Physics to the date of his untimely death.

Doctor Johonnott was always a progressive student, carrying on original work in experimental and theoretical physics. He was an erudite mathematician, fertile in expedients. He made exhaustive studies of the theory and use of the Rayleigh's phase meter and its application in the measurement of hysteresis losses in transformers, of arc and spark phenomena in transformer; in alternating circuit current calculations; in the rate of cooling metal spheres and in the determination of moisture in cereal food products, by electric means. He became deeply interested in radio transmission, and, in conjunction with Mr. Stone, studied methods of the transmission of sound signals through pipes. He did considerable work as consultant in physical problems arising in engineering practice. Much of his work was published in physics and engineering magazines.

As teacher he was earnest and conscientious, his enthusiasm was infectious. He held the highest ideals, he loved his work because of

the addition to the sum total of human knowledge that might come from it rather than because of material gain or the thought that immediate practical application might follow. This thought of the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, he kept before the minds of his pupils constantly, whose affection and respect he invariably won.

He would find the keenest pleasure in devising and constructing some piece of apparatus that might be useful in investigation and his delight when successful was almost childlike. He was generous and unselfish in giving assistance where it was within his power and sharing the knowledge and experience that may have been his, without a thought of being given credit for its inception.

Though essentially a student he was neither narrow nor pedantic. He was fond of nature, an outdoor man, an enthusiastic sportsman with deep interest in athletics, a genial companion and lovable character.

He was a man of firm convictions but not aggressive, rather retiring and backward in the expression of opinion, though when led to do so, expressed his thoughts in a clear, emphatic, not to be misunderstood manner.

He was ever ready to give his best to any cause he undertook to serve, with cheerful spirit he labored and shirked no task.

He became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1901, advancing to fellowship in 1904, and of the American Physical Society, 1903. He also was a member of the American Association of University Professors; the Indiana Physics Teachers Club and for many years a faithful member of the Indiana Academy of Science. He was one of the several affiliated Research Professors of the Luther Dana Waterman Institute for Research.

In all of these activities and associations his genial presence and loyal service will long be remembered and missed.

C. L. MEES.