

## GEORGE WILLIAM ALBERTSON

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN.

January 11, 1886.

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

June 7, 1929.

The Reverend George William Albertson, former Dean of the College of Science at the University of Notre Dame, died suddenly June 7, at the University Infirmary, after an illness of but four days.

He was well known to many members of the Indiana Academy of Science, and his death came as a distinct shock to all his many friends for it ended an eminent career as an educator and lecturer.

He was born near Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1886. He attended the parochial school there, and after completing his secondary school education, he entered the University of Michigan. After two years of study there, he continued at the University of Notre Dame, receiving there in 1914 the degree of Litt. B. He then began his work in the Seminary, finishing his theological studies in 1919, and was ordained to the Priesthood in that year. Later that same year, he went to the Catholic University in Washington, D. C., and began work in bacteriology and in 1921 received the degree, Doctor of Philosophy. He pursued graduate work at the University of Chicago during the summer sessions of 1920 and 1921, and was immediately after assigned to the College of Science at Notre Dame. He has acted as professor of Botany and Bacteriology there to the time of his death. The past two years saw him Acting Dean of the College.

The development of the system of graduate study was greatly aided by the Reverend Doctor. For four years he was secretary of the Committee on Graduate Studies at the University, and during his administration, that department has grown surprisingly.

Shortly after the Annual Commencement at Notre Dame, Dr. Albertson, feeling entirely exhausted after a year intensive work and study, entered the University Infirmary for a short rest and a thorough medical examination before continuing his duties, so heavy during the summer months. His genial disposition and his ready smile made him endeared to all who knew him, and his death is sincerely regretted.

R. G. SMITH, University of Notre Dame.

## ANDREW JOHNSON BIGNEY

MOORES HILL, INDIANA.

February 15, 1864.

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA.

November 13, 1929.

Andrew Johnson Bigney was born on a farm near Moores Hill, Indiana, February 15, 1864. He was the fourth child of Lemuel Bigney and Sarah Van Doren, his father having come to Indiana from Nova Scotia, his mother from New Jersey. He died at Evansville, Indiana, November 13, 1929, after an illness of only thirty-six hours.

He attended the rural school as a child and at the age of sixteen entered the preparatory department of Moores Hill College. Continuing his studies in the College of Liberal Arts, he was graduated in 1888 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The quality of his work and the breadth of his interests are indicated by the fact that at graduation he was offered positions in the depart-

ments of the classical languages and of the natural sciences. So anxious were the heads of these departments, Dr. J. H. T. Main and Dr. Charles W. Hargitt, to obtain the services of a young man of such unusual promise that they secured his release from an engagement previously entered into to become the Superintendent of the Rising Sun public schools. After careful consideration Dr. Bigney decided in favor of science and was elected Professor of Natural Sciences to take the place of Dr. Hargitt who in the meantime had accepted a position at Syracuse University.

After teaching four years at Moores Hill College Dr. Bigney went in the autumn of 1892 to Johns Hopkins University where he pursued graduate studies for two years. In the second of these years he was an assistant in biology at that institution. In 1894 he resumed his work at Moores Hill College as Professor of Biology and Geology. This position he held until June, 1917. At that time Moores Hill College closed its doors at Moores Hill. During the two years intervening between this date and the re-opening of the College at Evansville, Indiana, Dr. Bigney was given leave of absence. The first of these years he spent as a graduate student in Zoology at Harvard University, the second as Assistant Professor of Physiology at Syracuse University. At the opening of Evansville College in Evansville in the autumn of 1919 he began his work there as Professor of Zoology, the position which he held at his death. During the summer of 1929 he taught botany at the University of Southern California.

In addition to the bachelor of arts degree Dr. Bigney held a master's degree granted by Moores Hill College in 1891 and the honorary degree of Doctor of Science granted by that institution in 1910. He was a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the National Geographical Society, and of Sigma Xi. In 1916 he was president of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Such in rapid review are the outstanding facts in the life of Dr. Bigney. To any one familiar with the social history of Indiana during the last half century they would suggest what might be duplicated in the lives of hundreds of workers in the field of education. And yet they are totally inadequate to set forth the real Andrew J. Bigney—the man of keen intellectual curiosity, beloved teacher, trusted administrator, the ideal husband, citizen and friend.

Dr. Bigney's chief interest as a student was in Zoology. To this field of study he devoted his time in his periods of graduate study at Johns Hopkins and at Harvard. The summers of 1902, 1911, and 1918 he spent at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. He received careful training, however, in his undergraduate days in other sciences. At different times in his life he found it necessary to teach chemistry, physics, geology or botany along with his major subject. Such was his knowledge of the fundamental principles and facts of these sciences that no student ever went from his classroom with any other feeling than respect for the grasp of the subject shown by the teacher.

Undoubtedly one reason for Dr. Bigney's success as a teacher was a breadth of training and fullness of knowledge that made it possible for him to see his own special field in the light of related fields. For it was as a teacher that he has a claim to a high place among those who have served in the colleges of his native state. He could have excelled in the field of research, but his warm human sympathies, his grasp of essential principles, his understanding of the world of nature and his deep and reverent love for every manifestation of life made him pre-eminent as a teacher. The work of the classroom and the laboratory was never neglected, and his students responded with rare interest and enthusiasm.

From those who have gone on into the professions and into graduate study comes the universal testimony that the foundations laid under Dr. Bigney's instruction never had to be re-laid. Hundreds of young people who have not become specialists or scholars have lived richer lives because the eyes of their understanding of things of nature have been opened in his classroom.

The confidence reposed in Dr. Bigney by his associates in the faculty and by the Board of Trustees is shown by the administrative positions entrusted to him. In the catalog of Moores Hill College for 1888-89 his name appears in the faculty list as secretary. In 1895 he was made registrar and continued in this position until the removal of Moores Hill College to Evansville. In 1905 he was elected to the position of vice-president. During the year 1915-16 he was acting president and in the autumn of 1916, with the coming to the presidency of Dr. Alfred F. Hughes, he was made Dean. During these years of service Dr. Bigney acquired an intimate knowledge of the inner life of the College and became the adviser of students with reference to both academic and personal problems. College presidents and other officials took to him their administrative problems. For many years he sat with the Board of Trustees of Moores Hill College in all meetings. He was an ideal adviser of students, by his sympathy and tact winning their confidence and leading them to make wise decisions in hours of perplexity. So ungrudgingly did he give himself to the demands of classroom and office that friends wondered how he stood up under the strain of his work.

In view of these facts it will not be surprising that Dr. Bigney left very little in the way of published articles. His knowledge of Moores Hill College and its alumni led him frequently to write historical articles. These will be found scattered through alumni and college publications. His scientific interests are indicated by articles on biological and archeological subjects published in the *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science*. The results of a special study made in the zoological laboratory at Harvard University were published in the *Journal of Experimental Zoology* (Vol. XXVII., No. 8).

The name of Andrew J. Bigney will always be associated with the one college which his life as a student, teacher and administrator so fully personifies. As was said of him by a former president at the time of his death: "His going takes from Evansville College the outstanding personality connected with its history across the last half century. His life has been builded into the institution." And yet the college was not the only institution enriched by his life.

In 1896 he married Miss Carrie Ewan, a graduate of Moores Hill College of the class of 1894. Few unions have been so ideal. Mrs. Bigney made their home a retreat from the cares of the day's work, and stood with him through the years of labor and discouragement when the College they loved was struggling for its very life.

His interest in the church was not a mere official interest. It was secondary to a profound conviction that his life had been drawn into fruitful channels through obedience to a divine call and that he could render no service to others quite equal to sharing with them the Christian experience. Such a spirit—devout, sane, wholesome, free from even the taint of fanaticism and yet positively Christian—is rare indeed. Probably in this aspect of his life is to be found the key to the understanding of his personality.

Indiana may have produced scientists know farther afield than Andrew J. Bigney. His was not a nature that craved renown. As a teacher who knew how to open the things of the natural world to the mind of youth and to arouse in their spirits feelings of wonder and realization of the supreme worth of service

rendered in a search for truth, few have been his equal. Upon this gift and upon the influence of his genuinely Christian spirit upon men and women young and old whose love he won and cherished rest his claim to a place among the sons of Indiana who should not be forgotten.

CHARLES E. TORBETT, Evansville, Indiana.

### JOHN MERLE COULTER<sup>1</sup>

NINGPO, CHINA.  
November 20, 1851.

YONKERS, NEW YORK.  
December 23, 1928.

John Merle Coulter, who founded the *Botanical Gazette*, and who edited it for more than half a century, died December 23, 1928, at Yonkers, New York.

The *Gazette* in its infancy was a very unpretentious undertaking, consisting each month of a four-page leaflet, the first number of which was issued at Hanover, Indiana, in November, 1875. At first the new journal was known as the *Botanical Bulletin*, but from the second volume it has been known as the *Botanical Gazette*, the change of name being made out of regard for the previously existing *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*.



JOHN M. COULTER

For the first few years M. S. Coulter, now better known as Stanley Coulter, was coeditor with his brother. In 1883 Charles R. Barnes, then at Purdue University, and J. C. Arthur, then at Charles City, Iowa, became joint editors with Professor Coulter. At that time the journal was much enlarged, and was

<sup>1</sup>Reprinted from the *Botanical Gazette* 87: 211-217. 1929.