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In Memoriam: John Budd Wentz; Arthur Alfred Bryan

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A. A. Bryan

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IN MEMORIAM

JOHN BUDD WENTZ
1891-1938

Dr. John Budd Wentz passed away on August 24, 1938, at his home, 1023 Brookridge Avenue, Ames, Iowa. He had been seriously ill for several months but continued his work at the college with his usual interest and zeal just as long as he was physically able to do so. He was 47 years of age, having been born at Chariton, Iowa, March 4, 1891. He was united in marriage to Hazel Edna Patterson, at Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1915. He is survived by his wife and one son, John Budd, Jr., who is a sophomore in Iowa State College.

Doctor Wentz had his undergraduate college training at the North Dakota State College, making his home with his uncle, Pres. J. H. Shepperd. In 1913-1914 he taught Agriculture and Biology at the State Normal School, Spearfish, South Dakota, and the following year was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture at Newell, South Dakota. In the fall of 1915 he went to Cornell University as a graduate assistant and was granted the master's degree by that institution in 1916 and the PhD. degree in 1928.

Doctor Wentz served on the staff of the Maryland State College as Professor of Agronomy from 1916 to 1921, when he joined the staff of

Iowa State College with the rank of associate professor. His particular interest during the 17 years that he served on the college staff here was in the field of crop breeding, teaching this subject and directing the research of graduate students. He will be remembered with affection by the graduate students who came under his guidance and to whom he rendered great service. He also was active on genetic research problems with field crops, contributing a considerable number of research papers reporting his findings.

Doctor Wentz was a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Genetics Society of America, the American Genetic Association, the Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Iowa Academy of Science. In recognition of his productive research Doctor Wentz had been elected to the following honorary societies: Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

He contributed greatly to the community in which he made his home. Active in the Congregational Church through the entire period of his Ames resident, he gave long years of service in various official capacities. He further contributed to the development of better citizenship through the Boy Scout organization and the Parent-Teacher Association, giving generously of his effort.

In the passing of Doctor Wentz, Iowa State College lost the services of a man who was respected and admired, both within the college organization and without, for his personal accomplishments; a teacher, and an investigator who was a searcher for truth. In addition to his regular duties he served faithfully and continuously on important college committees.

We who had served with Doctor Wentz through a period of years lost a friend whom, because of his earnest, sincere, friendly attitude and his personal high standards of conduct, we had all come increasinly to respect and admire. We have not known a man of whose integrity of character we were more certain — who set high standards for himself and who was willing to give much of himself that others might gain in the most worthwhile endeavors in life. We who were closest to him and knew him best have profited most — our lives have been enriched by our knowledge of his daily life of duties well done.

H. D. HUGHES
A. A. BRYAN
Committee

Sept. 14, 1938

ARTHUR ALFRED BRYAN
1890-1939

Dr. Arthur Alfred Bryan, a member of the Iowa Academy of Science, died at his home, 712 Ridgewood Avenue, Ames, Iowa, on the morning of February 22. Doctor Bryan had not been well for about three years, but his final serious illness had lasted only a few weeks. He is survived by his wife, Jessie Miller Bryan, whom he married at Newton, Missouri, in 1916; by his daughter Phyllis; by two brothers, Reece and Roy; and by a sister, Mrs. Ike Hoover.

Doctor Bryan was born at Princeton, Missouri, December 2, 1890, attended the public schools of that city, and received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Missouri in 1915. He was granted the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy by the Iowa State College in 1925 and 1931, respectively. He entered the service of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry in 1916, and remained with that Bureau until his death, except for the period from 1920 to 1922, when he farmed in Texas. Prior to 1920, he was engaged in corn investigations in the South, and was Assistant Superintendent of the Western Irrigation Field Station at San Antonio, Texas. After his return to the Bureau in 1922, he represented it in the Iowa corn improvement program, coöperative between it and the Iowa State Experiment Station. From 1922 to 1933, he gave most of his time during the winters to the Iowa Corn Yield Test, spending his summers assisting Dr. Jenkins with the corn breeding program, and work-

ing on his own research projects. In 1934, he was placed in charge of corn breeding at the Station, devoting most of his time to that important program from then on.

It is no detraction from the important contributions of others to those projects, to say that the Iowa Corn Yield Test and the State corn breeding programs would not have been the outstanding successes they are and have been, without the services of Doctor Bryan. He gave his all to both projects, without thought of personal credit or reward, and his activities in either would have constituted a full assignment for many. The growth of the Yield test from 1922, with 70 entries, all open-pollinated, to 1938, with 1,110 entries, divided into regular and experimental, open-pollinated and hybrid classes, required the adoption and development of the most efficient technics, and presented many problems. Doctor Bryan brought to bear on these his unusual ability with statistical proceedures, frequently finding existing data that could be analyzed to provide an answer to some question that was presented. If a factual basis were not available, data were obtained to provide one. His doctoral dissertation, entitled, "Factors affecting experimental error in field plot tests with corn," brings together and analyzes these and other data, and provides a sound basis for technics that can be used wherever corn yields are to be critically compared.

Without responsibility for any specific part of the corn breeding program, until he was placed in charge of it in 1934, Doctor Bryan was satisfied to assist with it in any and all parts where he might be most needed at the given time. As a result, he was thoroughly familiar with all phases, and the program proceeded without hesitation when Doctor Jenkins was transferred to Washington and placed Doctor Bryan in charge at Ames. The improved lines and superior hybrids that are and shortly will be coming out of the State corn breeding program will constitute a lasting monument to the teamwork that preceded.

Doctor Bryan's interests were practical rather than theoretical. He was interested in Genetics because he recognized its basic importance to a sound program of corn breeding. He was content, however, largely to let others do formal genetic research while he kept up with developments through the literature and utilized such of the principles as seemed to apply in his problems. He also contributed time and effort to some applied genetic studies, which, unfortunately, were interrupted before completion. Shortly after coming to Ames, he began an experiment to find out whether deleterious factors might be used to increase difficulty of survival, in order that they could be used as an aid in obtaining strains otherwise having superior germplasm. The problem has an important bearing on some of the theories of hybrid vigor, and Doctor Bryan recognized these implications; but it is characteristic that his major interest in the problem lay in its possible relation to corn breeding. These experiments were, of necessity, of long duration and the droughts of 1934 and 1936 resulted in their complete loss. Again, he accumulated extensive data on the inheritance of root anchorage in selfed and back-pollinated populations, determining the stress needed to pull up thousands of individual plants. The results to date are meticulously recorded in his annual reports, but the experiments are not yet completed.

No appraisal of Doctor Bryan would be complete that did not stress certain characteristics which he had to the n^{th} degree. His complete lack of

thought as to personal credit or reward has been noted. His utter disregard of the amount of effort involved in an undertaking or in a way of life is exemplified by the nature of the problems he elected to work with and the assignments he cheerfully accepted. His intellectual honesty was evidenced by his absolute unwillingness to assume something as known when it was only supposed, or to proceed on theory when a factual basis could be provided. Beyond all these, however, was his spirit of helpfulness. No day was too full to prevent his taking time to explain something about the Corn Yield Test or the corn breeding program to a visitor who wanted to know; no year was too full to prevent his taking on an additional experiment that was of special importance to a fellow investigator who needed corroborative evidence from a different environment. And then, when his official day was ended, he gave unsparingly of his energies to civic and religious activities. For many years he was both Superintendent of the Sunday School and elder of the Church of Christ in Ames.

Besides membership in the Iowa Academy, Doctor Bryan was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Society of Agronomy and the Genetics Society of America.

In the death of Doctor Bryan, the science and art of corn breeding and the corn growers of Iowa and the Corn Belt lost an important contributor to their betterment; fellow workers lost a highly respected and esteemed friend; and the world lost a citizen, none the less valuable because of his own complete lack of assumption as to his worth: —

> "He scarce had need to doff his pride or slough the dross of Earth —
> E'en as he trod that day to God, so walked he from his birth,
> In simpleness and gentleness and honor and clean mirth."

FREDERICK D. RICHEY

Ashville, Ohio.
March, 1939.

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