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## In Memoriam: Ernest Otto Dieterich; Julia Trueman Colpitts; Lucy M. Cavanagh; Harry McCormick Kelly; James Newton Pearce; Albert B. Reagan; Bohumil Shimek

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## IN MEMORIAM

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ERNEST OTTO DIETERICH  
1889-1936

Dr. Ernest O. Dieterich died at his home in Akron, Ohio, April 25, 1936. A native of Dubuque, Iowa, he was born September 7, 1889. He attended the State University of Iowa and was granted the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from that institution. The latter degree in Physics was granted in 1916. His later academic work included an instructorship in Physics at the University of Minnesota, followed by a year as assistant professor at the State University of Iowa.

In 1919, Dr. Dieterich accepted an appointment as research physicist with the B. F. Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio. He was advanced to head of the Physical Research Laboratory of that corporation in 1926, in which capacity he served until a few weeks before his death.

During his earlier years of research, Dr. Dieterich was interested in the properties of selenium. With his entrance into industrial fields of research, the application of his scientific training to industrial progress became his chief interest. His personal research was always carried on with great care and thoroughness. As director of research, his analysis of the problem at hand, and his methods of approach to the solution were valued and fre-

quently sought by his associates. His contributions, within his own organization, to the technique of processing rubber and associated materials cannot be appraised. In the rubber industry his contributions to the knowledge of plasticity of rubber and the methods of handling rubber and cotton are well known. His membership in numerous scientific societies is testimony to his continued interest in the advances in pure as well as applied science.

Aside from his immediate professional interests, Dr. Dieterich was well known for his activities in the educational and character-building agencies of his home community. As a member of the board of the Y. M. C. A. and a patron of sports, he participated in welfare activities. His breadth of interest in scientific education and training was always apparent. For all these fine qualities, he will live in the memory of his many friends and associates.

K. J. MILLER



JULIA TRUEMAN COLPITTS

1875-1936

Dr. Julia Trueman Colpitts, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Iowa State College, died on August 8, 1936, at Southampton, England. Miss Colpitts was born on February 22, 1875, at Point de Bute, N.B. She graduated from Mount Allison University with honours in mathematics. Later she received the degrees of A.M. and Ph. D. from Cornell University, where she specialized in function theory. From 1900 until the time of her death, Miss Colpitts belonged to the faculty of Iowa State College.

Miss Colpitts' keen interest in many lands and her true friendship for humanity, far and near, found expression at home in the Cosmopolitan Club of Iowa State College and abroad in extensive travel. Particularly signifi-

cant was a half year spent in Japan, Korea, and China, a period of study of oriental education, of enrichment through treasures of art and nature, of intensification of many old friendships and formation of new ones. The many reports, both oral and written, on such travels were evidence of Miss Colpitts' energy and of her generosity.

Professor Colpitts had attended the International Congresses of Mathematicians at Bologna and Oslo. She had recently been chairman of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America (the Mathematics Section of the Iowa Academy of Science), and national president of Sigma Delta Epsilon, and was a member of the Iowa Academy of Science as well as the American Mathematical Society. She was well-known as the co-author, with Maria M. Roberts, of a textbook on Analytic Geometry.

Miss Colpitts was loved and honored by her colleagues and by her many students, in both elementary and advanced mathematics, for her untiring cheerful helpfulness, her unswerving standards of excellence, and for her thorough integrity.

EDWARD S. ALLEN



LUCY M. CAVANAGH

1871-1936

With the passing of Miss Lucy M. Cavanagh the State of Iowa lost one of its foremost bryologists. The loss is distinctly felt by her friends and by associates in the Department of Botany at the State University where her work was always a source of inspiration.

She was born in Iowa City on July 17, 1871, and died at her home there on April 13, 1936, after several months of illness. Her parents, Matthew

and Mary (Fellows) Cavanagh, were the only members of the first graduating class of Cornell College in 1857.

Miss Cavanagh graduated from the Iowa City High School and later received a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of Iowa in 1896. Prior to her graduation from college and for several years thereafter she taught in the Iowa City public schools. In 1902 she became Assistant Curator of the University Herbarium, a service which she continued until her final illness. During much of this time she assisted the late Professor Bohumil Shimek in his laboratory teaching besides helping with the general herbarium work.

Being particularly interested in Iowa mosses, all but one of her several papers dealt with these plants. In 1902 she became an associate member of the Iowa Academy of Science and continued her membership until her death. She was also a member of the Sullivant Moss Society and the Elder Daughters of the University.

CLARK D. PARIS



HARRY McCORMICK KELLY  
1867-1936

In connection with the sessions of the Academy a year ago, a program was carried out in honor of those who had been members of this organization for forty or more years. On that occasion I was privileged to speak briefly in appreciation of Professor Harry M. Kelly. We had anticipated his presence that evening but he was detained at home by what we hoped was only a temporary illness. The words, spoken spontaneously on that occasion, have added significance today and perhaps are worthy of repetition in this connection. I then said in part:

"Professor Kelly has been Professor of Biology at our sister institution, Cornell College, since 1894. During these forty-two years he has been actively and helpfully related to all that is best in Iowa. He has been first of all a good citizen—that most significant of all human relations. As an educator on that beautiful Cornell Campus he has helped and inspired thousands of students and in later years has extended his influence to even larger numbers through his educational work in our National Parks. As a scientist he has contributed critical results in a critical field while as a teacher he has also lighted the torch of research for many others. For forty years he has been a loyal and faithful member of this Academy and has been welcomed at its sessions—scientific and social. But it is as a friend that we shall remember him longest. May I join with you in my sincere regret that he cannot be here with us tonight on this occasion."

A week later Professor Kelly's name passed from the list of active Fellows to the honor roll of our departed members. But the sentiment expressed a year ago in appreciation of him as a fellow worker may well be ours on this occasion as we pause in remembrance of those who rest from their labors. We gratefully recall his unselfish friendliness and happy optimism as well as his organizing ability and calm scientific judgment. Possessed of critical discernment and quick decision he listened attentively to opposing views and was ever patient with those of slower mind or lesser vision. Those closely associated with him never heard him complain however hard the road nor speak unkindly of another. Devoted to his work he used it as a medium of service and never as a means of selfish advancement.

Professor Harry McCormick Kelly was born at Harrisburg Pennsylvania, May 27, 1867. His undergraduate training was received at Bucknell University from which institution he graduated in 1888. After two years preliminary teaching at Central Pennsylvania College he entered Harvard and from that University received the master's degree in 1893. There followed a year of teaching as instructor in Zoology at Northwestern University. He entered upon his professorship in Biology at Cornell College, Iowa, in 1894, beginning that autumn a period of service which was to continue to this one institution for almost forty-two years. During these more than four decades he not only established courses, equipped laboratories and built buildings but he founded traditions in his own science and contributed vigorously to the life of the college and to civic leadership in his community. He regularly served on critical faculty committees and was for many years a leader in the educational programs worked out at Cornell. His wide acquaintance and friendly interest made him a potent bond between the college alumni and their Alma Mater.

Professor Kelly's special research related to Trematodes and Mollusca and he contributed a number of papers in this field. He worked several summers at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and contributed much to its progress during the earlier years of its development. A little later he took up educational work in Yellowstone National Park and was for several summers a leader in their constructive programs. He was more than advisor in the development of the Museum in Yellowstone National Park. During the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago in 1932 he was in charge of the National Park Exhibits in the government building.

His death, following a short critical illness, occurred on April 10, 1936. We today pay tribute to the memory of Harry M. Kelly, good citizen, friendly neighbor, inspiring teacher, critical scientist and faithful friend.

ROBERT B. WYLIE



JAMES NEWTON PEARCE

1873-1936

While waiting in the Iowa stadium for the opening of a football game, which was his favorite sport, Professor James Newton Pearce died suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday, November 14, 1936. For some time past those of us who had been in daily contact with him were fearful that his general health had been impaired by an attack of appendicitis which he suffered a few years ago. But in view of the fact that he had since that time carried a regular schedule of work with his accustomed zeal and energy, no one knew that he was in any immediate danger. His sudden passing came as a profound shock to his colleagues and friends.

James Newton Pearce was born at Oswego, Illinois, on December 21, 1873, the son of James Titsworth and Mary Catherine (Gannon) Pearce. He received the degree of Ph.B. from Northwestern University in 1896, and that of Ph.M. in 1897. During the ten years following his graduation he was successively chemist with James S. Kirk and Company, soap manufacturers of Chicago, instructor in chemistry at Township High School, LaSalle, Illinois, graduate student at the University of Chicago, instructor in chemistry at Northwestern University, and graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1907.

Dr. Pearce's work in chemistry began in his undergraduate days. His service as a commercial chemist soon after graduation and his experience as a teacher in high school and college served to emphasize his desire for graduate study. This interest was broadened and intensified by his work in the laboratories of Ira Remsen and Harry C. Jones at Johns Hopkins, and it may be said that his experience there determined in large measure the direction of his life work. Most of his publications deal with the properties of solutions of electrolytes, the adsorption of gases, and the development of apparatus required to test the reactions involved.

Dr. Pearce went to the University of Iowa in 1907 as assistant professor and was placed in charge of physical chemistry. He organized the work in that division and was made associate professor of physical chemistry in 1919 and professor in 1920. His enthusiasm as a teacher and his insight as a research worker attracted a large number of graduate students. To them he gave unsparingly of his time and energy. He worked long hours in the laboratory and went home to write reports and read proof. It was his habit to give students an opportunity to develop initiative, and he judged them finally by their ability to work independently. Nevertheless, he was always ready with advice and counsel. His interest in his students did not cease when they left his laboratory. On the contrary, one of his greatest delights was to greet them again at homecoming, at a meeting of the American Chemical Society or at some similar gathering.

Dr. Pearce was a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association of University Professors, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Gamma Alpha, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Phi Delta Chi and Alpha Chi Sigma. He had served as chairman and councilor of the Iowa Section of the American Chemical Society. For the past nine years he had been a member of the committee on contact catalysis of the National Research Council and a member of the board of editors of the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* for 1932-33.

One of Professor Pearce's outstanding characteristics was his love of human activity. This was shown first of all by his interest in sports, especially football, in which he distinguished himself as an undergraduate. It was shown further by his genial humor, his spirit of comradeship, his participation in many social activities on the campus and in the city, and his friendliness toward others. He is survived by his widow, Martha Anne Slater, whom he married in 1904, by a brother and five sisters.

Professor Pearce gave twenty-nine years of devoted service to the University of Iowa. Relatively few have served longer in a single academic post and none more faithfully than he. His work in the department of chemistry is represented in part by the list of publications given below.

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L. CHAS. RAIFORD



ALBERT B. REAGAN  
1871 - 1936

On May 30, 1936, the Iowa Academy of Science in the passing of Dr. Albert B. Reagan who was elected to membership in 1922 lost a member of long standing and a prominent contributor to its Proceedings. At the time of his death, Dr. Reagan held a position on the faculty of Brigham Young University in the field of ethnology.

Prior to his affiliation with the University at Provo in 1934, he had been connected with the United States Indian Service since 1899. During the period, he devoted himself to the study of American Indian tribal customs and characteristics, and contributed a variety of papers in the related fields of ethnology, archaeology, and anthropology as they concerned this race. His study of Indian legends resulted in a book published in 1936.

Born on a farm near Maxwell, Iowa, on January 22, 1871, Dr. Reagan was the son of William Simpson and Annie Emily Reagan. He obtained his preliminary education in the public schools and later entered the Central State Teachers College of Oklahoma from which he was graduated in 1898. Although he entered the Indian Service in 1899, he continued his education and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University in 1899, and his degree of Master of Arts from the University of Indiana in 1903. In 1925, the Leland Stanford University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. On June 15, 1903, he married Otella Adelaide Reese who survives him.

In addition to his position in the Indian Field Service, Dr. Reagan during his life held positions in the Bureau of American Ethnology and the Victoria Memorial Museum of Canada, as well as membership in several state academies of science and fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

With the death of Dr. Reagan, science lost an earnest worker and a prolific writer. A list of the papers published in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science is appended.

Papers of Albert B. Reagan published in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science:

- 1923. The flora of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. v. 30, p. 201.
- 1924. The Apache region of Arizona and its Indians (Abst.) v. 31, p. 333.
- 1925. The Indians of the Fort Apache region. v. 32, p. 339.
- 1931. The ancient house people of the Brush Creek region in northeastern Utah. v. 38, p. 183.
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- 1936. Some notes on the religion of the Indians. v. 42, in press.



BOHUMIL SHIMEK

1861 - 1937

Professor Bohumil Shimek, member of the University of Iowa Botany staff for the last 46 years, died at Iowa City, Iowa, January 30, 1937 aged 75. His death was caused by heart complications following influenza. At the time of his death he was the second oldest member of the University staff. Professor Shimek was born in Shueyville, Iowa, June 25, 1861, the son of Maria Theresa and Francis Joseph Shimek, political refugees who had immigrated to America from Bohemia in 1848. Professor Shimek's youth and education were closely bound up with the University of Iowa which he entered in 1878 as a student of engineering. After attaining the C.E. degree, Professor Shimek was a railroad and county surveyor for two years. This early training and experience as an engineer resulted in unusual precision and exactitude in his later work in biology. In 1888 he

accepted an instructorship in zoology at the University of Nebraska but returned to his alma mater in 1890 as a member of the Botany staff. Professor Shimek's academic rise was rapid as he soon became professor of Botany, head of the department of Botany, director of the Lakeside Laboratory, curator of the herbarium and later research professor. The high esteem in which Professor Shimek was held personally and as an educator was attested by the testimonial celebration tendered him by the University and state of Iowa at the time of his retirement in 1932 at which time he had completed a fifty-year teaching career. The University in publishing his biography recognized his outstanding services as a pioneer, engineer, geologist, zoologist, conservationist, educator, patriot and citizen. The biography was dedicated as follows:

Honor to whom honor is due, Bohumil Shimek, a golden anniversary,  
June the Sixth, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-two.

In Appreciation of Bohumil Shimek

Pioneer, Engineer, Geologist, Zoologist, Botanist, Conservationist, Educator, Patriot, and Citizen.

The faculty, alumni, and students of the University of Iowa, and your friends everywhere salute, greet and honor you on the occasion of the golden anniversary of your career as a teacher.

The varied and enduring character of your contributions to Science and to Life make the chronicle of your career unique in the annals of the University and in the realm of Natural Science.

As a zoologist Professor Shimek found his chief interest in the study of snails and from his original interest along these lines developed his well known work on fossil forms for which he has long been recognized throughout the world. His study of fossil malacology gradually developed into a broad interest in the Pleistocene geology of Iowa. He published a number of papers on loess and its fossils and he is the author of the term *Nebraskan*, applied to the till sheet which underlies the Aftonian interglacial deposits. Many of Professor Shimek's highest honors came in recognition of his geological work. He was a member of the Iowa State Geological Board and in 1911 was chairman of the Geological Section and Vice President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1914 he was made honorary chairman of the geological Section of the International Scientific Congress held in Europe as a tribute to his important contributions. The Geological Society of America had awarded him a research grant in 1936.

Professor Shimek's botanical contributions were in the field of ecology in relation to prairies. He strongly championed the concept that prairies were definite associations of species with common tolerance of intense light and rapid evaporation and that their treelessness was attributable to the high summer temperatures and drying winds. His notes comprise over fifty years of meticulous, quantitative observations which have followed the transitions of Iowa and surrounding prairies from pioneer times to the year of his death. He was at work in his office a few days before his final illness overtook him, studying herbarium material and completing a report on the plant geography of Iowa. Few scholars were able like Professor Shimek to knit together vividly and accurately the whole story of natural history. His was a life spent largely out-of-doors in direct contact with the things about which he wrote. He was known for his insistence upon study in the field and the synthesis of the entire natural environment. In 1901

Professor Shimek took his first class of students to Lake Okoboji where in 1909 the Lakeside Laboratory was established.

Professor Shimek labored ardently in behalf of the independence of Czechoslovakia in 1918 and with his personal friend, Thomas G. Masaryk, the historian, he planned, during the latter's exile in America, much of the strategy which finally resulted in Czech independence and Masaryk's election as the first president of Czechoslovakia. As president of the Czechoslovakian Council of Higher Education from its very inception he contributed greatly to the establishment of American standards and ideals of higher learning in the now independent nation of his forebearers. He was called to the Charles University of Prague, Bohemia, as exchange professor in Botany in 1914 and awarded the Ph.D. degree, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his scientific contributions. As a testimonial of his patriotic services he was awarded a special Czech medal of honor in 1927. His services to the state and education were memorialized by the Iowa legislature in an unanimous resolution of tribute passed February 1, 1937.

Professor Shimek was long a leader in the educational development of the middle west. He served as a member of several school boards and other educational organizations. He was president of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1904 and later president of the Botanical Society of America, Ecological Society, Washington and Iowa Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, national and state president of the Isaac Walton League, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geological Society of America, Botanical Society of Bohemia and Natural History Society of Prague. His name and work were inseparably linked with that of his noted naturalist colleagues, Thomas Huston Macbride, Charles C. Nutting and Samuel Calvin. His passing is an irretrievable academic and civic loss to the state. He was the last of the elder statesmen of natural history in the middle west.

#### REALIZATION

Like the upbuilding of Solomon's temple is the fulfillment of a successful human life. It rises silently before us and only as it nears completion do we begin to realize its worth and symmetry. — *Thomas Huston Macbride.*