MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. ATWOOD

William H(enry) Atwood, Emeritus Professor of Biology, died November 20, 1970, of a heart attack, at the age of 83. When he retired in June of 1956, shortly after the formation of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he had completed 39½ years of teaching biology courses at The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and its predecessor institutions.

Professor Atwood was born in Grand View, South Dakota, on March 21, 1886. His family then spent some years in Missouri and early in his youth moved to Holland, Michigan, where he completed his elementary and secondary schooling. He received a B.A. degree from Hope College in 1912, and in 1916 received an M.A. degree from Washington University, St. Louis, and an M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin. Additional graduate work was carried out at the University of Michigan and at Marquette University.

His professional career began at Cordell Academy, Oklahoma, where he taught for one year and was continued at Granite City High School (Illinois) from 1912 to 1916. In 1917 he accepted a position as Head of the Department of Biology in the Milwaukee Normal School, and continued in this capacity up to the time of his retirement. During this long association he, with many others, played a significant role in elevating the school through successive stages of Normal School, Teacher's College Wisconsin State College and finally to the present University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In addition to his full teaching load at the Normal School he taught and served as the head of the Department of Biology at the Marquette University Dental School from 1918 through 1921.

During his long career he taught courses in biology, botany, zoology, embryology, comparative and vertebrate anatomy, human physiology, genetics, ornithology, parasitology, algae, general science and mathematics testifying to his exceedingly wide background and training in the natural sciences. He was a member of numerous committees; the athletic committee is the one he was associated with for many years, and he served as the conference representative up to the time of his retirement.

Although his career was chiefly that of a teacher, he found time for a wide diversity of other interests. He was competent in the preparation of zoological museum specimens and developed and maintained an excellent collection of natural history specimens for the school. He also found time to pursue an avocation in gardening. He loved growing irises and through hybridization he developed many outstanding new horticultural varieties which he unselfishly gave to his many friends.

He wrote 11 (one co-authored) high school and college textbooks in biology, vertebrate anatomy and comparative anatomy; a series of technical articles for an encyclopedia; and several popular articles for various magazines and periodicals.

He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Wisconsin Education Association, Milwaukee Men's Bird Club, Milwaukee Men's Garden Club and the Iris Society.

Retirement was a period of continuing activity for Mr. Atwood for he found time to teach biology, economic geography and a course in investments for students at the Spencerian College, Milwaukee; comparative anatomy for one semester at Bates
College, Maine; and biology for two semesters at the College of St. Theresa, Winona, Minnesota. It was only during the past two years that he curtailed these activities.

Mr. Atwood was a natural born teacher who took a very personal interest in his students and gave unstintingly of his time, knowledge and energy. It was through his encouragement and guidance that many of his former students have become successful workers in professional and scientific fields. Professor Atwood was also fond of the outdoors and enjoyed taking field trips and camping with his colleagues and students. One of his closest colleagues recently remarked, "My fondest memories of Mr. Atwood are those associated with the many hours we sat together around numerous camp fires in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. He was a natural story teller and many of his youthful adventures and experiences on the prairies of South Dakota and the deep woods and cypress swamps of southeast Missouri were relived around those camp fires." He was a true friend, a very kind person, always a gentleman at heart and intellectually keen and alert to the last.

To his wife, Ida, his son, Dr. William H., Jr., and his daughters, Mrs. Helen Prasnikar, Mrs. Ruth Kendall and Mrs. Carol Schulenberg, his colleagues and friends extend their sincere sympathy and their appreciation for his service to this University.

Memorial Resolution Committee

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