

## IN MEMORIAM

### DANA BRACKENRIDGE CASTEEL

The death on February 10, 1958, of Professor Dana Brackenridge Casteel terminated forty-nine years of useful service to The University of Texas. For although he had become professor emeritus in 1952, he served in premedical affairs within one week of his decease.

Dr. Casteel was born May 15, 1877 at Grafton, West Virginia. In the next year his parents moved to Parkersburg, where he attended public school until in 1893, the family moved to Tarentum, Pennsylvania, a town about twenty-one miles north of Pittsburgh. At a later date he attended the preparatory department of Duquesne College in Pittsburgh before entering Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., in the fall of 1895. There he majored in classical languages with a minor in zoology. After receipt of the B.A. degree in 1899 and election to Phi Beta Kappa, he was granted the M.A. degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1900, and the Ph. D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1903, with major in zoology and minor in botany. He had held a fellowship in the later institution from 1902 to 1904 and was elected to membership in Sigma Xi

He began teaching as acting professor of biology in Missouri Valley College at Marshall, Mo., during 1904-1905. Subsequently, he served as instructor in zoology at the University of Michigan for four years before coming to The University of Texas as instructor in zoology in 1909. At this institution advancement came to adjunct professor in 1911, to associate professor in 1914, and to professor in 1919. At the age of seventy-five, in 1952, Dr. Casteel became professor emeritus.

As a young scholar, he showed considerable promise for research in zoology, as attested by the appearance of seven publications:

(With E. F. Phillips) "Comparative Variability of Drones and Workers of the Honey Bee," Biological Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 1, 1903 pp. 18-37.

"Cell Lineage and Early Larval Development of Fiona Maina, a Nudibranch Mollusk," Pro. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, 1904, pp. 325-405.

"Discriminative Ability of the Painted Turtle," Journal of Animal Behavior, Vol. I, No. 1, 1911, pp. 1-28.

"The Manipulation of the Wax Scales of the Honey Bee," U.S. Dept. Of Agric., Bureau of Entomology Circ. No. 161, 1912, pp. 1-13.

"The Behavior of the Honey Bee in Pollen Collecting," U.S. Dept. Of Agric., Bureau of Entomology Bull. No. 121, 1912, pp. 1-36.

Cytoplasmic Inclusions in the Male Germ Cells of the Fowl Tick, *Argas Miniatus*, and Histogenesis of the Spermatozoon," Journal of Morphology, XXVIII, 1917, pp. 643-683.

"Histology of the Eyes of X-rayed *Drosophila*," Journal of Experimental Zoology, Vol. 83, No. 3, 1 1929, pp. 373-385.

Early in his career at The University of Texas Dr. Casteel began to assume administrative and committee responsibilities which inevitably limited his further activity in research. From 1913 to 1915, and again from 1925 until 1947, he served as chairman of the Department of Zoology. During these periods he accepted responsibility for the many details connected with that office, thereby freeing his colleagues to pursue their own productive research. Time-consuming committee memberships on which Dr. Casteel served with success were discipline (5 years), courses (11 years), publications (3 years), buildings (16 years) and schedule (13 years). For about twenty-five years he contributed significantly to the planning of programs and buildings on this campus. His service on the University building committee began with that committee's inauguration. Here was created the initial master plan for location of all structures erected on the University campus.

For thirty-six years he taught in and at times was responsible for the freshman course in zoology (now Biology 607) He had a kindly attitude toward students, which the latter recognized and appreciated. Yet he looked upon his teaching as a challenge to have students see zoology as a dynamic study. He held a high standard for student performance, and, in private, made abundantly clear to the student what would happen if he did not meet the standard.

This kindly interest brought him into close contact with premedical and pre dental students. Respect for his ability and judgment caused many of the latter to major in zoology. Few of those who came under his influence returned to the campus without visiting him and expressing their deep and sincere appreciation for what he had done for them.

About 1940 Dr. Casteel became a member and chairman of the premedical and pre dental student advisory and recommending committee. He served as chairman to this overworked committee longer than any other staff member. With little or no secretarial assistance he evaluated transcripts of academic records, cataloged and classified applicants for entrance to medical and dental schools, presided over meetings of his committee to make recommendations for each applicant, and typed the recommendations or other committee actions. Despite being placed on "modified service" in 1947, and five years later, being made emeritus, he continued to serve on this committee until just before his death. Because of his modest and self-effacing manner, few staff members on the campus were aware of the extent of his service in this area. Very few members of the teaching staff here in recent years have done as much for favorable public relations between this institution and the people of this state.

Dr. Casteel was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Texas Academy of Science (fellow), Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Delta Theta (social), Phi Chi (medical), Phi Sigma (biological),

and Alpha Epsilon Delta (honorary premedical). He is survived by his wife, Lella Rand Casteel, by one daughter, Isabel Casteel, and a son, Dana B. Casteel, Jr.

Special Committee

Osmond B. Breland  
Robert A. Law  
Oscar B. Willis  
Henry R. Henze, Chairman

Filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty by Dr. Henry R. Henze, Chairman of the Special Dana Brackenridge Casteel Memorial Resolution Committee, January 19, 1959.

Distributed among the members of the General Faculty by the University Stenographic Bureau, January 30, 1959.