

IN MEMORIAM
ELLWOOD GRISCOM

Ellwood Griscom was born in Moorestown, N. J., on October 22, 1884. He was of Quaker stock, the Griscom family going back through generations in Philadelphian history to a forerunner of William Penn. He was married on September 9, 1915, to Anne Francis Grimm. Their son, Ellwood Griscom, III, was born July 8, 1918. All who knew the Griscoms intimately will ever remember the rare devotion and sweet companionship that characterized the relationship of the three.

After six years of business experience in Camden, N. J., Mr. Griscom went west for his college training; and he graduated from Northwestern University with the degree of B.A, in 1913. As an undergraduate, he had played a very active role in the social and cultural life of the University. He was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity; and, always keenly interested in athletics, he played for three years on the Varsity baseball team. His major interest, however, lay in forensic studies, and in 1910 he received a special diploma in oratory from Northwestern's School of Liberal Arts. As a member of the Dramatic Club, he not only acted in plays but served on its board of directors. Throughout his college career he supported himself.

Mr. Griscom's teaching began while he was still an undergraduate. He was professor of oratory and director of the school of oratory at Upper Iowa University during the year 1910-11. He came to the University of Texas in 1913 serving as instructor in public speaking from 1913 to 1916, then was called to Williams College, where he was instructor in public speaking from 1916 to 1917 and assistant professor from 1917 to 1919. In the latter year he was called back to the University of Texas, serving as an associate professor from 1919 to 1935, and professor from then on. During this period he spent several summers in graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, and took the M.A. degree from that institution in 1921. He was on leave of absence during the year 1926-27, when he served on the faculty 'of the so-called "Floating University,"

which made round-the-world cruises. It was characteristic of his intellectual breadth and his alert, receptive mind that he grasped all opportunities for foreign travel.

Long a member of the Rational Association of Teachers of Speech, Professor Griscom served as its second vice president in 1924-25 and again in 1934-35. He was editor of a compilation, entitled Americanization, and co-editor of two other schoolbooks, entitled respectively Peace Selections and A Public Speaking Manual. Here in Texas he contributed greatly to the revised curriculum of the Department of Speech, developing the study of rhetoric and speech correction, as well as the history of oratory. He also fostered the growth of the Texas Interscholastic League, much of the success of which was due to his zealous cooperation. But it was chiefly as a teacher, guide, and confidant of youth that Ellwood Griscom deserves a leading place in the annals of the University of Texas. Students found in him an inexhaustible fund of sympathy from which they could freely draw.

Mr. Griscom was one who carried the torch of service modestly; yet it shone no less brightly for that reason. His colleagues in the Department of Speech will ever recall his unselfish devotion to duty, his fatherly solicitude, his words of helpful encouragement, his innate loyalty. For colleagues and pupils alike the vigor and sweetness of his rare personality have left imperishable memories. "Devoid of petty prejudices, truly open-minded, and possessed of a keen, analytical mind, he was an outstanding teacher in the true sense of the word."* His community feeling was evidenced by his long, unbroken membership in the University Club. His many friends on the faculty will never forget his hearty greeting, his ever-ready smile, his infectious chuckle. No one had a keener sense of fun. Though he often carried the weight of crushing problems, always his cheery fortitude sustained him. In Browning's words

He was one who never turned his back, but marched, breast-forward;
Never doubting clouds would break...

Assuredly some of the sunshine departed from our midst when Ellwood Griscom died on
May 15, 1943!

*Quoted from a letter of Captain T. A. Rouse.

Special Committee on Griscom Memorial Resolutions

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