

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**HENRY WINSTON HARPER**

On the twenty-eighth of August, 1943, Henry Winston Harper died, shortly before his eighty-fourth birthday. He had completed forty-nine years of service in the University of Texas. His early years and his general education were in Boonville, Missouri, where he was born on September 20, 1859. He completed the work for the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1881. Later he attended the University of Virginia, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1892. In later summers he did advanced work in chemistry at the University of Virginia and at laboratories in London, Paris, and Wiesbaden. In 1881 he came to Texas, where he was a manufacturing chemist for three years in Fort Worth. For two years he was in Mexico as a chemist and metallurgist. He then returned to, Fort Worth as a chemist and pathologist and later as a physician.

In 1894 he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Chemistry in charge of the School of Chemistry at the University of Texas. In 1897 he was promoted to an associate professorship, and in 1903 to a professorship, which he held until his death.

The scientific interests of Dr. Harper were numerous. His training in Pharmacy, medicine, and chemistry turned his interest to things biological and analytical in the field of chemistry. Thus, he became interested in the poisons of the vegetable and animal kingdoms and their effect on the human body. He also became interested in determining the chemical poisons developed by the human body during periods of great fatigue. His scientific career in his early days in the Southwest included the location and utilization of the minerals of Texas and Mexico. This interest was lifelong and, under his guidance, there were trained quite a number of mining engineers and assayers, who received a rigorous training in the "furnace room" of the old brick chemistry building. Dr. Harper was a member of many scientific and honorary societies. In 1899 he was appointed Fellow of the Chemical Society of London. He was President of the Texas Academy of

Science in 1900-1901. In 1906 Dr. Harper was included among the leading chemists of this country whose names were starred in the First Edition of American Men of Science.

He was versatile; his interests were catholic. He was a student of and reader in the arts, literature, and science. His scientific reading was not limited to his specialty, analytical chemistry; he kept abreast, for many years, of the developments in all branches of chemistry and could converse informatively on many fine points outside his specialty and even outside the field of chemistry. But, withal, here remained humble and kindly toward all.

His kindness endeared him to his students. Though he insisted on extraordinary amounts of work, his interest -In their problems smoothed over many discouragements. He counseled with the slow manipulator, giving him by demonstration the essence of expert technique. He was always ready to listen to a tale of woe or to aid in times of trouble. With a twinkle in his eye and a few kindly words he bolstered up the spirit of many a despondent student, both graduate and undergraduate. When everything else failed, he would recite his own experiences as a student, laying bare some of his own disappointments and final successes. His love of life remained with him to the very end. He kept in the recesses of his mind the names of many students, their strength or their weaknesses, and their present locations. Usually, he knew something interesting of their lives or habits. His students became and remained his friends and became imbued with the generous attitude he took toward life and the living. He was a kind and generous friend; he was a loyal and cooperative colleague; and he was a staunch advocate of truth in all of its forms and manifestations. In his going, the University lost a loyal, distinguished faculty member and the citizenry of the state a friend of long standing.

From 1900 to 1910 Dr. Harper was Chairman of-the Committee on Graduate Courses, which was in charge of our graduate work under the faculty. In June, 1910, a graduate department was organized with a Graduate Council as the governing body. Dr. Harper was Chairman of this Graduate Council, and in 1913 he was made Dean of the Graduate School which position he held until 1936, when he became Dean Emeritus. Before Dr. Harper became Chairman of the

Committee on Graduate Courses, the graduate enrollment of the Main University of Texas had slowly increased from three or four to forty-three graduate students. During the next decade very little change took place. In 1910-11 when the Graduate Department was first organized, there were only forty graduate students. When he became Dean of the Graduate School in 1913, there were seventy-three graduating students. From then on the enrollment increased remarkably, except for temporary declines during the First World War and during the depression in the middle thirties, before the Second World War had caused another decline, Dr. Harper lived to see over 900 graduate students in the long session at the Main University and over 2000 graduate students in the summer session. The soundness and wisdom with which the policies of the Graduate School were developed led to the inclusion of the University of Texas in the Association of American Universities in 1929. Though associated with strong committees during all these years, Dr. Harper as Chairman initiated and directed the policies affecting graduate work. This was a duty and an opportunity which his phenomenal patience, his comprehensive acquaintance with the problems of humane and scientific learning, his interest in students as human beings, and his unfailing courtesy eminently qualified him to perform. Knowing the standards of graduate instruction in the best American institutions, he was unwilling to compromise with lower standards here. Thus it was not until 1915 that the first Ph.D. degree was conferred by the University of Texas. In the meantime, with unwearied patience, Dr. Harper repeated year after year in his reports to the President recommendations and elaborate arguments for higher salaries, expansion of the faculty in higher ranks, and larger appropriations for library and laboratory equipment. A less equable temperament might have been discouraged by the slow realization of his program but, characteristically, he neither faltered in perseverance nor abbreviated his reports. Both social instinct and his conception of official duty caused him for many years to establish a personal relationship -- which often ripened into friendship -- with every candidate for a graduate degree; and he abandoned with genuine reluctance the aspiration to read every thesis which he officially approved. There can be no dearth of problems to be solved in the future development of the Graduate School; but it is a happy

tribute to the wisdom and efficiency of the unassuming gentleman who, more than any other, shaped its foundations, that his work need never be undone.

Special Committee on Harper Memorial Resolutions

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