IN MEMORIAM

DANIEL ALLEN PENICK

Daniel Allen Penick was born on a farm in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, on September 7, 1869. He died on November 8, 1964, at the age of ninety-five.

The Penick family moved to Austin in 1882. Young Daniel worked in a printing shop at a wage of $2.50 a week, but soon took a job in a grocery store, attracted by the higher salary of $3.00 a week. By going to school during summers he was able to enter the University of Texas in 1887 at the age of eighteen, when the University itself was but four years old. He received the B.A. degree in 1891 and the M.A. in 1892.

At the University he was Editor-in-Chief of the student magazine, The Texas University, a publication which carried both news and literary articles in the years before the appearance of a regular campus newspaper. He was active in founding the University Y.M.C.A. and in raising the funds for constructing the building, and he served as its first Secretary-Treasurer. As an undergraduate he won his letter in baseball for three successive years and was a member of the track team. He already showed an interest in tennis, which was not yet a major sport at the University. After teaching English and Latin for a year in the Paris, Texas, high school at a salary of $85.00 a month, he taught the following year at Daniel Baker College in Brownwood. In 1894 he entered the Johns Hopkins
University, where, after four years of graduate study in the fields of Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit, he received the Ph.D. degree in 1898. He was always proud of having studied under Basil Gildersleeve, who was perhaps the most distinguished classical scholar in this country of that time. The subject of his doctoral dissertation was "Herodotus and the Greek Renaissance." Many years later, when one of his tennis men asked him how he had ever learned so difficult a language as Greek, Dr. Penick replied, "It wasn't hard. I learned Sanskrit first and then Greek was easy."

Following one year of teaching at the Centenary Collegiate Institute in Hallettstown, New Jersey, he returned to the University of Texas in 1899 as an instructor at a salary of $1,000.00 per year. He served on the faculty of the University continuously for 56 years until he retired from teaching in 1955, without ever having taken a leave of absence for even as much as a semester.

While he taught both Greek and Latin, his chief field of instruction was New Testament Greek. For a number of years all the students at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary were also students in his Greek courses and many continued to get their M.A. degrees under him. In his teaching of the Bible, he carefully avoided sectarian explanations, training his students to interpret the Greek text accurately and objectively. In addition to his teaching duties he served as Head of the Correspondence Division from 1920 to 1927, and as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1928 to 1940.
Although his achievements as a teacher of Classical Languages were substantial, he was known in the State of Texas and nationally for his brilliant success as a tennis coach. He organized and coached the men's tennis teams, starting in 1907, continuing as head Coach of the team for 41 years until he retired in 1957 at the age of 87. His teams won all ten of the Southwest Conference team tennis titles awarded while he was coach. They also took 31 of the 40 individual doubles championships and 26 of the 40 individual singles championships. In addition, his men won five national doubles championships and two national singles championships. Two of them were members of Davis Cup teams. He was among the first coaches to stress the fundamentals of the game, giving his men a thoroughly solid foundation. In the spirit of the Greek maxim, he insisted that you will never control a tennis ball until you learn to control yourself.

Dr. Penick was one of the first presidents of the Southwest Conference and served in that office for the twelve years from 1923 to 1935, always fighting uncompromisingly for the highest ethical standards in collegiate athletics. He was president of the Texas Tennis Association for over fifty years.

Dr. Penick's activities in his church formed an important element in his life. When he returned to the University in 1899 to teach, he joined the Highland Presbyterian Church in East Austin. That same year he organized and taught a special Sunday School class for students,
the first Bible class established anywhere in this country intended primarily for Presbyterian students. With this class he was the founder of Presbyterian student work at the University, and in the nearly fifty years during which it continued under his direction more than one-third of the Presbyterian clergymen now serving with the synod of Texas came under his influence. His devotion to his Church was central in his life. He was chosen to be an Elder in his congregation and occupied this high position for more than half a century. He was the first layman to be selected as Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Texas. In the Highland Presbyterian Church (later renamed the University Presbyterian Church) he became director of the church choir, a position which he occupied for more than 25 years, always serving without pay.

He married Chloe Parmeleee Hastings in Little Rock on December 26, 1901. He is survived by her and by their three children, Dixon B. Penick, of Andover, Massachusetts, Mrs. Ruth Pickard, of Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Dr. R. Cochrane Penick, a member of the faculty of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.

Because his time was taken up with his teaching, his tennis coaching, and his work with his church, he had little opportunity for scholarly research and writing, so that his publications are few. They include an edition of Sallust's *Catiline*, 1908, and, in collaboration with L. C. Procter, *Latin First Year* and *Latin Second Year*, elementary textbooks, both of which appeared in two editions, 1927 and 1933. He
was the author also of a few papers on classical subjects as well as a number of articles concerned with tennis.

Dr. Penick lived not only a long life, but one that was full and rich and rewarding. In every phase of his many activities he won both the willing cooperation and the affection of all who worked with him because of his sincerity, his kindly understanding, and his complete integrity. He always insisted on the highest standards in every phase of his activity, so that in one of the many tributes paid to him during his lifetime it was said, "In Dr. Penick's presence the second-best is never comfortable." This memorial may well close with a sentence quoted from a Memorial issued by the Directors of the University of Texas Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.: "The influence of his life, both by precept and example, will stretch on through the multitude of lives which he touched."

Norman Hackerman
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Eugene W. Nelson
Secretary of the General Faculty

The Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Wilmer Allison, L. M. Hollander, D. C. Reddick, and H. J. Leon, Chairman.