IN MEMORIAM

BURNETT FORREST TREAT

The death on March 13, 1959, of Burnett Forrest Treat, at the age of 61, terminated an engineering career characterized by faithful and productive performance which is rare. As a teacher he operated with a humility which is essential to the enlargement of knowledge. As a man he was never devoid of generosity and kindliness. As a husband and father he maintained a love which changed only to grow greater.

Professor Treat was born in Kansas City, Kansas, on March 2, 1898. He attended school in Kansas City, Kansas and Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from high school in Little Rock. He attended the University of Kansas from 1915 until 1917. At that time he entered the service of his country as a member of the 43rd Infantry, U. S. Army. This service was continued for two years. He was honorably discharged after having been elevated to the rank of first lieutenant. He returned to college after having worked for two years in commercial pursuits. In June of 1923, he received the degree of B.S. in M.E. from the University of Kansas.

In 1924, he came to The University of Texas and served as Instructor of Mechanical Engineering until 1927. At that time he joined the staff of the U. S. Navy, Engineering Experiment Station at Annapolis, Maryland. This work he pursued as Associate then Senior Mechanical Engineer until 1943. He was then moved to the position of Senior Marine Engineer, U. S. Navy, Bureau of Ships in Washington, D.C. For three years his talents were devoted to battleship and cruiser maintenance.

A physical infirmity made it necessary for him to relinquish this work and seek a place of usefulness which was less exacting in its demands of his physical strength. So, he returned to the University of Kansas as an Instructor in Mechanical Engineering. A year later he re-entered the service of The University of Texas as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. This service was continued to the time of his death.

Burnett Treat was devoted to his family, which consisted of his wife, two daughters, a son, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and five grandchildren. His love for these members of his family was staunch, steadfast and true.

As a teacher he was both dedicated and humble. His students were taught by voice and example. He pursued his work with an open mind, but demanded proof of the truth. Through research he endeavored to enlarge knowledge. As an author he sought to bring to others the truths which he had found to be valid. As a professional engineer he participated actively in the work of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society for Engineering Education.

He was a devout Christian. In his religious activities at the University Presbyterian Church, of which he was an Elder, he sought ever for the wisdom to understand the Master's plan and the courage to fulfill His purpose. He lived his life with an inexorable faith in the great goodness of Providence.

Professor Treat's departure will leave its impress upon all with whom he associated. Comfort must come to those by whom he is survived through the realization that in his departure the Lord has indeed won a victory.