

irrigated sections in Colorado and adjoining states."

Only about ten years was devoted to the work outlined above. In that brief period he accomplished much. His farm was an experiment station teeming with possibilities when adverse circumstances caused him to give up this work. In a short time he turned his attention entirely to collecting and he became a botanical explorer. He began his collections in Vermont, but gradually extended his field to include the lower St. Lawrence, the Pacific slope, the southwestern states and territories, and finally Mexico.

Early in his career as a botanical collector of rare ferns in the Green mountains, he became acquainted with Professor Asa Gray, who later styled him "the prince of botanical collectors." Dr. Gray was engaged at that time upon his "Synoptical Flora of North America" and he assigned to Dr. Pringle the investigation of the flora of Mexico, "charging him, as they sat with a map spread before them, to ascertain especially the southern limit of distribution of species found in the United States and also to ascertain what related species might be indigenous in the adjacent regions of Mexico."

His first trip to Mexico was begun February 25, 1885. He was cordially received by the Mexican government officials, who gave him every possible assistance in his work, including letters to subordinates, special police protection when necessary, railroad passes for himself and assistants, etc. During the following twenty-six years he made thirty-nine trips to Mexico, sometimes bringing home large collections, sometimes returning empty-handed on account of sickness either of himself or his assistant. During this period he was able to travel over large areas and collect from many localities. He collected the desert flora of the arid interior plains of the great northern states; the alpine plants from the mountains capped with perpetual snow; the rich flora of the tropical jungles along the coast and lowlands.

As official collector for Harvard and the National Museum, he made for each institu-

tion a set of all his collections in addition to the set which he made for his own herbarium. However, he did not confine himself to these three sets, but attempted in every case to collect 60 extra sets for purposes of sale and exchange. These sets are to be found in all the large herbaria of the world. I believe it is now impossible to furnish complete sets. He brought out of Mexico alone over 12,000 numbers, very many of which were new to science.

His own herbarium, now the property of the University of Vermont, "The Pringle Herbarium," contains about 160,000 mounted plants and occupies two rooms, each 40 by 45 feet, in addition to office and storeroom. He was very busy the past winter making exchanges and buying plants to increase its size. The additions he made this year will approximate 30,000.

During the past year Dr. Pringle, although far from being as vigorous in bodily health as he was mentally, hoped to make another trip. Owing to the revolution in Mexico, he was considering South America as a field for this work, but his indomitable will and energy had carried him beyond his strength and an attack of pneumonia together with other complications cut short the life that had been so full of energy and masterful achievements.¹

GEORGE P. BURNS

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

*THE INAUGURATION OF THOMAS EDWARD
HODGES AS PRESIDENT OF WEST
VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY*

THE formal inauguration of Dr. Thomas E. Hodges, late member of the State Board of Control, and formerly professor in the university, as president of the State University of West Virginia took place on Friday, November 3, 1911.

The various exercises incident to the inauguration lasted several days, and were initiated by President Taft, on Wednesday morning, when he addressed a large gathering of

¹ An extended biography of Dr. Pringle by Professor Ezra Brainard will soon appear in *Rhodora*.

university and town people from the steps of one of the university buildings.

This meeting, which was presided over by Governor William E. Glasscock, being of an academic rather than of a political character, the President refrained from the discussion of politics, and, after a few remarks of a congratulatory character, spoke at some length upon the subject of the "Judicial Settlement of International Disputes."

The next exercise of a formal character was the "Educational Meeting" of Thursday night, at which the State Superintendent of Education, Morris P. Shawkey, presided. The program consisted of two formal addresses and several musical selections.

The first address was by Dr. Fletcher B. Dressler, of the United States Bureau of Education, upon the "Duties and Opportunities of the Modern Scholar."

The second address was by President Edwin A. Alderman, of the University of Virginia, upon "The Universities and the National Spirit."

The exercises of Friday morning, presided over by Retiring-President Daniel B. Purinton, began with an academic procession of the visiting delegates and the local faculties to the assembly hall.

After a musical number and the invocation the delegates, more than sixty in number, and representing institutions of learning and scientific bodies from Maine to California, were formally introduced by Dr. Robert A. Armstrong, chaplain of the university. The chief part of the program consisted of short greetings from eight or ten of the delegates.

The actual inaugural exercises, followed by a general reception at the Armory, took place on Friday afternoon, Governor Glasscock again presiding. After the entrance of the academic procession, a musical selection and the invocation, the charge to President Hodges was delivered by Hon. Morris P. Shawkey, president of the State Board of Regents, which was followed by the acceptance by President Hodges.

The first address of the day was by Presi-

dent Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago, on "The University and the State." This was followed by an address by President William Oxley Thompson, of the Ohio State University, on "The University and the People." The dominant note of these two addresses seemed to be "practical service" by the state university to the taxpayers who support the university.

Following these two addresses was President Hodges's inaugural address. This was, to some extent, a brief review of the history of the institution and a statement of some of the fundamental policies which he expects to follow in the future. While he did not in the least belittle the importance of the "practical service" aspect of university work, he emphasized more than did some of the other speakers the importance of and his desire to encourage the pure sciences and the purely cultural subjects. He expressed the belief that it would be better policy for the university to endeavor to build up existing departments rather than to create new ones, though he expressed the hope that it would not be long before it would be possible to lay more emphasis upon graduate work.

On Friday evening was held a Pan Hellenic Reunion, preceded by a torchlight procession of students and alumni. This was, of course, of an entirely informal character, and was in charge mainly of the younger alumni of the university.

Saturday was called "West Virginia Day," and the exercises consisted mainly of addresses by alumni of the university who have become prominent in some phase or other of the state's activities.

The weather was almost ideal, and the entire program was carried out without a single hitch.

With a president of force and energy, who has the confidence alike of his faculties and fellow statesmen, it would seem that a new and greater era is about to begin for West Virginia University.

A. M. R.