

HARRY WALTER TYLER
1863-1938

DR. HARRY W. TYLER, professor emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and formerly general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, died on February 3 in Washington of a heart ailment. Dr. Tyler, who had lived at the Cosmos Club for some months since the death of Mrs. Tyler, had become ill only a few hours before he died.

He was head of the department of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute from 1901 until his retirement in 1930. Since that time he had been living in Washington, serving as general secretary of the American Association of University Professors and as a consultant of the Library of Congress.

Professor Tyler had a long and distinguished career on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute, having joined the teaching staff at the time of his graduation in the class of 1884 and having had the rank of professor since 1893. In addition to the duties of professor of mathematics, Dr. Tyler has served as registrar of students and for many years as secretary of the faculty. Always a champion of the autonomy of the institute he fearlessly, logically and successfully supported its independence. As chairman of the Walker Memorial Committee he guided the campaign which brought into existence the splendid student center which has served so admirably for a score of years. Under his wise guidance, the department of mathematics became one of the first rank in this country.

For many years he was prominent in the American Association of University Professors, having been a charter member and having served as general secretary from 1916 until 1934. Upon his voluntary retirement in 1934, he was elected vice-president for 1934 and 1935 and editor of the *Bulletin*, the official publication of the association, which he edited until July 1, 1937. He rendered important service to the academic profession on behalf of academic freedom and tenure which will be of lasting benefit to the free spirit in our institutions of higher learning. Just prior to his death, Dr. Tyler had completed important chapters on "Academic Freedom" for the John Dewey Yearbook and for the Social Science Research Council.

When Dr. Tyler moved to Washington, D. C., he made a place for himself in the hearts of the alumni of the institute as he had among his associates in Cambridge. He became president of the Washington Society, and with his delightful sense of humor and winning leadership, his fellow alumni would have no other one for their president until he died.

A native of Ipswich, Massachusetts, Dr. Tyler, after graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1884, studied at the University of Göttingen and in 1889 received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Erlangen. In 1887, he married Miss

Alice I. Brown, of Roxbury, Mass., who preceded him in death by only a few months. X.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. GEORGE ELLERY HALE, honorary director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution, died on February 21 at the age of sixty-nine years.

DR. JOHN EDGAR COOVER, emeritus professor of psychology at Stanford University, died on February 19 at the age of sixty-five years.

M. CHARLES LALLEMAND, of Paris, retired inspector general of mines of France, member and past president of the Academy of Sciences, Institute of France, died on February 1 in his eighty-first year.

THE death at the age of seventy-three years is announced of Dr. W. W. Vaughan, from 1921 until his retirement in 1931 head master of Rugby Public School. He was a past president of the educational section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and served on the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education and on the government committee appointed in 1916 under the chairmanship of Sir J. J. Thomson, on the position of natural science in the educational system of Great Britain. He was a member of the council of the British Association and of the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies. His death resulted from a fall which occurred during his visit to India as a member of the delegation of the association to the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association.

FORMAL dedication of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial took place on February 11, the ninety-first anniversary of his birth. A luncheon was given at the Hotel Astor, New York City, during which a switch was thrown to light the tower which has been erected at Menlo Park, thirty miles away. The tower, which rises 131 feet above the site of the original Edison laboratory, where the incandescent lamp was perfected on October 21, 1879, is the gift of William S. Barstow, president of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation.

At the exercises at the annual Alumni Day of the New York University College of Medicine on February 22, a symposium on heart disease was given as a tribute to Dr. John H. Wyckoff, at the time of his death last June dean of the college. Dr. Alfred E. Cohn presented a review of Dr. Wyckoff's contribution to the study of heart disease. Other speakers were Drs. Donal Sheehan, Charles E. Kossmann, Irving Graef, Isaac Seth Hirsch, Arthur C. De Graff, Currier McEwen, William Goldring and Clarence E. de la Chapelle.

At a meeting on February 12 of the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri it was recom-