

OBITUARY

AUGUST H. WITTENBORG

AUGUST H. WITTENBORG, professor of anatomy, head of the department of anatomy, chief of the division of anatomy and formerly dean of the Memphis Colleges of the University of Tennessee, died on August 21, 1941, at Ann Arbor, Michigan. His final illness was the culmination of a progressive heart disease which had compelled his leave of absence from university duties during the academic year immediately preceding his death.

Having received his preliminary education in Germany, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Memphis in 1906 and graduated therefrom in 1910 with highest honors in medicine. In his senior year he was student instructor in medical biology. During the year immediately following graduation he studied in Berlin, Vienna and other European medical centers.

Returning to Memphis in 1911, he entered private practice and became associated with the College of Physicians and Surgeons as instructor in physiology.

In 1912, when the College of Physicians and Surgeons was merged with the University of Tennessee Medical School, Dr. Wittenborg joined the staff on a full-time basis as professor and head of the department of anatomy. He retained this appointment until his death. With the organization of the faculty into divisions, in 1925, he became chief of the division of anatomy and served in this capacity also until his death.

From 1917 to 1919, Professor Wittenborg served as dean of the College of Medicine. To his devotion and courage during this critical time in the history of the college must go a major share of credit for its survival. Again, in 1921, during another crisis in the affairs of the College of Medicine, he was acting dean of this college for three months.

No statistical recital can describe the unique distinction which Professor Wittenborg enjoyed among his colleagues and students. It is difficult to express the affection and esteem in which he was held. He touched profoundly the lives of those with whom he came in contact. Students brought their personal problems to him, and returning graduates rarely failed to visit him.

His complete intellectual and personal honesty, his profound scholarship, his intuitive powers of human analysis, his incisive but kindly humor, his lively and stimulating imagination, his warm and vivid personality, the sincerity and friendliness of his interest, were qualities which made for his greatness as a teacher. His loyal devotion to the university and his high order of courage were potent factors in developing and sustaining proud standards of discipline among students

and faculty. He was incapable of a mean or selfish act.

Professor Wittenborg published but little in his lifetime and was not therefore well known outside of his immediate group of colleagues. He was elected to membership in the American Association of Anatomists in 1924. He did not belong to that school which believes that medical students can learn anatomy when merely left to themselves with cadaver and text. His was a very dynamic and energetic form of teaching, one which drove home the important facts of anatomy through the frequent use of homely similes, embryological references and correlations between morphology and physiology. He believed that it was inexcusable for the anatomy teacher not to give the student the benefit of his anatomical experience, and thus to help him to acquire more easily a working knowledge of this important and difficult subject. Although he did not believe in the formal lecture in teaching anatomy, his group discussions, in which he searchingly quizzed the students, conveyed much more factual material to his listeners than do most lectures. He devoted his life to the teaching of anatomy, and probably he has had few equals as a teacher of this subject.

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DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. WILLIAM ALBERT NOYES, professor of chemistry and director emeritus of the Chemical Laboratory of the University of Illinois, died on October 24 in his eighty-fourth year.

Nature announces the death of H. S. Ball, principal of the School of Metalliferous Mining, Cornwall, on September 26, aged fifty-three years, and of R. T. Baker, formerly curator of the Technological Museum, Sydney, an authority on Australian eucalypts and pines, on July 14, aged eighty-six years.

THE meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine on October 2 was devoted to the memory of the late Sir Frederick G. Banting. Dr. Charles H. Best, who succeeded Dr. Banting as director of the department of physiology and the department of medical research of the University of Toronto, made a memorial address and a scientific address on "Prevention of Diabetes from the Experimental Viewpoint," and Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, Boston, spoke on "The Use of Insulin in Its Various Forms in the Treatment of Diabetes."