

## OBITUARY

## ALEXANDER LOWY

1889-1941

DR. ALEXANDER LOWY, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh, died in The Western Pennsylvania Hospital on December 25, 1941, after an illness of about four months.

Dr. Lowy was born in New York City on March 31, 1889, the son of David and Fanny (Weiss) Lowy. He obtained his bachelor of science degree from Columbia University in 1911, the master of arts in 1912 and the doctor of philosophy degree in 1915. His major work was in the field of organic chemistry under Columbia's Professor Marston T. Bogert, leader in the field of organic chemistry and president of the International Union of Chemistry. On December 23, 1915, he married Dora Landberg of Brooklyn.

Dr. Lowy was assistant in electrochemistry in Columbia University from 1912-1915. He taught in the high schools of New York City from 1915-1918 when he became professor of organic chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh with which he was associated until the time of his death. During the past summer he was exchange professor in the University of Southern California. Dr. Lowy was the holder of numerous United States patents. He was a recognized authority in the field of protective chemicals, having invented methods for the safeguarding of banks and vaults. He also made important contributions in the field of dyestuffs and was a pioneer in electro-organic chemistry, to which he contributed numerous researches. Dr. Lowy, with Dr. Benjamin Harrow, of the College of the City of New York, was the author of *A Text-book of Organic Chemistry*, which is in use in over 125 colleges and universities in America. This text-book has gone through many revisions. Each revision included the latest developments in the field of organic chemistry and the most modern charts and devices. This tendency was characteristic of the senior author. A companion volume to the text-book is *A Laboratory Manual of Organic Chemistry* with Dr. Wilmer E. Baldwin, assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh. This also has had extensive adoptions. Dr. Lowy contributed the chapter on organic chemistry to Rogers's *Manual of Industrial Chemistry*. Alone and with his research students he was the author of over seventy research reports and scientific papers which have appeared in technical journals since 1919. Dr. Lowy was a member of the American Chemical Society and a past chairman of the Pittsburgh section. He was a member of the American Electrochemical Society and its vice-president from 1930-1933 and again from 1939-1941. He was chairman of the committee on publica-

tions of this society from 1931 to 1941. He belonged to the honorary science societies, Sigma Xi and Phi Lambda Upsilon. He was an honorary member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

In the summer of 1929, Dr. and Mrs. Lowy visited England and continental Europe, where Dr. Lowy made a study of the universities and industrial establishments. He lectured extensively and addressed many of the sections of the American Chemical Society. It was as a teacher that Dr. Lowy reached his pinnacle. No effort was too great to provide what was best for the student. The painstaking care with which material was presented left no question regarding accuracy. He was exacting in the student's performance, but at the same time tolerant of the individual's difficulties and ever willing to lend the student a hand and help him, not only in his studies but in his private problems. Dr. Lowy had no hobbies. His only pleasure was his work except during recent years when he enjoyed his small farm in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, where he and his family spent the summers. In the University of Pittsburgh he was a member of important committees and was faculty chairman of registration.

ALEXANDER SILVERMAN

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

## ORIN F. STAFFORD

ORIN F. STAFFORD, chairman of the Chemistry Department of the University of Oregon and dean of science and of the Lower Division, died at Eugene, Oregon, on September 17, 1941, after a painful illness of two months.

Professor Stafford was born at Hillsboro, Ohio, on February 7, 1873. He moved with his parents to Kansas in 1885, and in 1900 received the A.B. degree from the University of Kansas and in 1902 the A.M. degree. In 1900 he was appointed instructor in chemistry at the University of Oregon. In 1902 he became assistant professor and in 1906 was promoted to full professor and head of the department. He became dean of science in 1934.

While at Kansas Stafford was assistant to Dr. E. C. Franklin and participated in the pioneer work on solutions in liquid ammonia. Thus began an intimate friendship between the two men which continued throughout subsequent years.

Professor and Mrs. Stafford spent the year 1908-09 in Europe, where he did graduate work at the University of Berlin under Dr. Walter Nernst. During the four years from 1918 to 1922 he was on leave of absence in Boston and Kingsport, Tenn., developing his invention for the autogenous distillation of wood.