

turn, captured his attention and yielded important secrets to his insistent probings. In his zealous pursuit of comparative physiology he scooped up every creature he could find in the Pacific Ocean for study and then repaired to the Atlantic Ocean for yet other organisms. The tremendous volume of research he stimulated in the many others who came under his influence is beyond estimation.

One modern concept of human life completely escaped his comprehension—retirement. For 16 years after he was labeled “emeritus” he continued unremittingly to fight against ignorance and superstition, disease and death—against quacks and quackery, alcoholism, antivivisection, and the processes of aging.

His beginnings were as humble as his full stature was lofty. A goatherd in the Sweden of his birth, he came to America at the age of 16, was a carpenter for a time, and then attended Augustana Col-

lege at Rock Island, Illinois, where he received the B.A. and M.A. degrees. He chose a life of science, and took the Ph.D. degree at Stanford University in 1902. Two years later, he returned to the scene of earlier days, to take his place in the van of those scholars who have pronounced the “mighty learning” of the University of Chicago. Recognition of his quality as a scientist and his stature as a man of character and intellectual courage was widespread. This recognition was formally symbolized by numerous honorary degrees and by his election to the National Academy of Sciences and to the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

I had the rare great privilege of knowing Dr. Carlson as a medical student in his classroom, quiz section, and laboratory, as a colleague in teaching, as a collaborator in research, as an associate in reporting investigation, as a coauthor

upon many occasions, and as a companion in play. I knew him as well as any knowing can comprehend a powerful intellect, a sturdy soul, a great man. Yet, it was not necessary to know Carlson as well or as long as I did to know him a great deal. One encounter might suffice for a permanent impression, perhaps when Dr. Carlson arose to state: “Your research buildings and equipment are superb. Have you given as much thought to securing the brains to use them?”

Dr. Carlson loved a rough and tumble scientific scrap. He loved his work and his responsibilities, his family and his colleagues and his fellowman, his opportunities and his contributions. But, as his university’s alma mater song tells, he could not have loved these so well, loved he not truth and honor more.

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T. Dantzig, Historian and Interpreter of Mathematics

Born in 1884 in Shavli, Russia, Tobias Dantzig took his licencie in Paris in 1909 and his doctorate in 1917 at the University of Indiana. While in Paris he studied under the great French masters of mathematics: Appel, Borel, Boussinesq, Darboux, Goursat, Hadamard, Picard, and Poincaré. From his stay in Paris he gained a conviction which he held throughout his life: mathematics should be acquired by study of the works of the masters. In pursuit of this belief his studies led him back through the medieval ages to the Greeks and their discoveries in science.

A lover of stories, Dantzig never forgot a tale. This vast reservoir was put to good use in the classroom, with more than one abstruse point in mathematics driven home with a salty epigram. He was intensely interested in mathematicians as people, and his writings are spiced with lively anecdotes surrounding

the famous scientific personalities who captured his interest.

Dantzig’s first book, *Number, the Language of Science*, broke a new path. This was the first attempt to bring mathematics to the layman in a manner calculated to capture the interest and enlarge the understanding. Starting with the rudimentary number sense displayed by birds and animals, he leads the reader by easy and gracious steps to some of the advanced outposts of mathematics. He was a great admirer of Poincaré and constantly sought to bring the genius of Poincaré within the ken of his audience. Although English was not his mother tongue, he displayed a phenomenal command of it in all his writing. This was not gained easily, however, for he wrote slowly, destroying more than he kept; on occasion, days would be spent before one or two lines reached the standard he set for himself.

After taking his doctorate and after a year each at Columbia and Johns Hopkins universities, he spent 6 years in industry bringing his mathematical training to bear on engineering problems. This acquaintance with industrial problems gave him a lifelong interest in the application of mathematics. He was one of a very few mathematicians who sought their livelihood outside academic circles 30 years ago.

Dantzig came to the University of Maryland in 1926 with promotion to full professor following in 1936. Two years later he became chairman of the department of mathematics. Under his leadership eager, young mathematicians were brought in, and mathematical research was added to the goals of the department.

After his retirement in 1946 he moved to the West Coast, seeking a climate more favorable to his health. In the 10 years that remained to him he taught courses in mathematics and in the history of mathematics, returning at times to mathematical consulting for industry and government.

His interest in the history of mathematics dominated him to the end, and his last work is entitled, *The Bequest of the Greeks*. His colorful personality made a deep impression on all who knew him, and he will long be remembered for his leadership and enthusiasm for mathematics.

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