

## OBITUARY

## EDWARD M. SHEPARD

1854-1934

THE death of Edward Martin Shepard at Springfield, Missouri, on April 28, ended an active and useful life that any one might envy. Born at Winsted, Connecticut, on May 15, 1854, and graduated from Williams College with the degree of master of arts in 1878, after a year as professor of natural science at Waynesburg College, he came to Drury College at Springfield in 1879 as professor of biology and geology. For thirty years, until his retirement in 1909, he was a member of the faculty, librarian during the early years, acting president for one year and dean for a time. He built up a strong department of geology, organized a museum, later named in his honor, with his personal collections as a basis, and established the Bradley Geological Field Station at Graydon Springs.

Dr. Shepard's original interest was botany, and he was a student of Daniel C. Eaton, famous authority upon the ferns of North America. He came to Missouri with the intention of applying himself to study of mosses and hepatics, those obscure bryophytes so plentiful in the hills of New England. The Ozarks, he found, were disappointingly deficient in these plants, and his interest turned to other subjects. He was one of numerous men trained in botanical science who have made geology their life work.

For this science he found the Ozarks with their varied conditions an almost untouched field, and he devoted his life to their study. He was active in organizing the Missouri State Geological Board, of which he was a member throughout its existence, except for one term. One of its reports by his pen is an exhaustive volume devoted to the geology of Greene County. He was engaged also in investigations for the United States Geological Survey, and made a detailed study of the New Madrid earthquake area. Upon the geology of southern Missouri he was recognized as an authority, and his activities extended far beyond that field. He was consulting geologist for mining companies in many western states and in Mexico. Travel in foreign countries gave him a broad general acquaintance with geological phenomena in remote parts of the earth.

Dr. Shepard's interests were not confined to geology. He was active in civic matters and in the social life of his city. Among his hobbies were the history of the Ozarks, about which he had a unique fund of information, and the archeology of the Ozarks and of Mexico. Although born far away in New England, in an altogether different environment, he was intensely loyal to the Ozarks and had a sympathetic understanding of their mountain people.

While to the general public he was known best for his contributions to geological knowledge, it is probable that Dr. Shepard's richest contribution consisted in what he imparted to the students who came in contact with him during thirty years in the lecture room. Among them are a number who have distinguished themselves in geology and other branches of science. Their success was a matter of great pride and satisfaction to him.

Few scientists, unfortunately, are born teachers, but Edward Shepard was one of those, and fortunate were his students. Of greatest significance, perhaps, was the fact that he possessed a broadness of sympathy and a tolerance such as too seldom exist among faculty members of a small college with the peculiar limitations that usually surround it. With his broad vision, based upon travel and wide reading and association, and doubtless even more as a result of his own natural talents unconsciously used, he had an extraordinary faculty for presenting his subjects in an attractive manner. Indifferent, indeed, was the student whom he could not arouse with his almost childish enthusiasm for investigating every phase of natural history. His breadth of knowledge and experience were matters of inspiration for students whose own experiences were limited by the environs of a small Missouri city as it existed thirty years ago, when the writer had the privilege of being one of his students.

It is as a leader of geological field trips for his students that I best remember him. He was the most active and by far the most alert of the party, eager to discover something new, and to point out every significant object. After a long, hard day in a horse-drawn vehicle, he always seemed untired at evening, and was always a kindly host, versatile enough to prepare some special dish for the table, read aloud from a favorite book, describe his experiences in foreign lands or in the Ozark hills, or repeat one of the stories of which he had a well-assorted supply.

Dr. Shepard is survived by his wife, Harriett Elma Ohlen, whom he married in 1881, and a daughter, Isabelle Shepard. His greatest grief was the death of his only son, Edward M. Shepard, Jr., at the beginning of a career that seemed full of promise.

Few men have the fortune to live so rich and gracious a life, and to possess so many friends. Geological science was enriched by his discoveries and his lucid interpretation of their significance. All over the United States and in foreign lands are hundreds of Dr. Shepard's students and acquaintances whose lives have been made happier and more useful because of their association with him.

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