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In Memoriam: George Luther Smith; Henry Albert; D. S. Fairchild; George Bennett

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IN MEMORIAM

DR. GEORGE LUTHER SMITH

It has been my pleasure through many years to know Doctor Smith, both by personal acquaintance and by knowledge of his scientific work. I recall very distinctly a trip made some years ago in southwestern Iowa in company with Doctor Smith and the Director of the Survey. Doctor Smith's enthusiasm was unbounded and his interest in and knowledge of the geology and paleontology of his part of the state were keen and thorough. Even in the early years of the Survey, Doctor Calvin, while State Geologist, had held him in high regard and had recognized his intimate acquaintance with the problems of Upper Pennsylvanian stratigraphy. I believe it is not too much to say that in his day no one else knew the Missouri series of southwestern Iowa so accurately as did Doctor Smith. His contributions to the literature on this series, both in the Proceedings of this Academy and in the Annual Reports of the Geological Survey, were thorough and valuable. Doctor Smith was elected to membership in the Academy in 1900 and retained his fellowship until his death.

From the local newspaper account of Doctor Smith's life I gather the following facts: Doctor Smith was not a native of Iowa but was born at Rutland, Vermont, on September 19, 1852, of Yankee parents who were descendants of founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628. At the age of five he came west with his family and lived for a time on a farm in the environs of Chicago. The westward urge was strong in the parental breast, however, and within a few years the elder Smith brought his wife and eight children to Cedar county, Iowa, and then to Page county, near the young village of Shenandoah. We may imagine the mingled feelings of wonder and delight, and perhaps sometimes vague dread with which these pioneers met their new and varied experiences. The journey was made in a covered wagon, for the railroad had not yet penetrated thus far across the prairies. Living was hard in many ways; education was harder to get; and so the young pioneer found his way of progress a rough and sometimes dark one. He worked as a farm helper in the summer and as a miner in the coal mines in the winter and in this way earned enough to pay the cost of a course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, from which he was graduated with honors in 1882.

For the next ten years he cared for the sick and infirm among the uncultured European immigrants near Weston, Nebraska, making many of his calls on horseback and contending with all the drawbacks of a new, raw country and an ignorant, untutored clientele.

In 1892 he returned to Shenandoah and here continued his practice of medicine until 1912. During the world war he resumed work in order that younger men might be freed for overseas duties.

His work in mining had aroused an interest in geology and so he took time, as opportunity offered, to carry on extensive and intensive studies of the Missouri series of the Pennsylvanian system of strata. While most of his work was done in Iowa, he familiarized himself with the geology of the neighboring states of Nebraska and Missouri. Because of this familiarity he was able to make widespread and thorough correlations of the strata of these regions and in this way he became one of our authorities in his particular field of study. He knew the fossils as well as the rocks and when I showed him the exposures near Corning he was able to place them in their proper stratigraphic position unhesitatingly because of the shells which they contained.

Doctor Smith was married in 1889 to Miss Mary Alice Welty, who shared the next forty years of his successes and efforts. She left him on the 5th of October, 1929. During the last few months of his life his eyesight, as well as his strength, had been failing and so had prevented the continuance of the study which was his constant inspiration. So it was a real relief to him when he joined his wife on February 19, 1930. His going has taken from us one of those pioneers whose work laid the foundations, both social and scientific, for the broader community and the wider knowledge which we today are privileged to enjoy.

JAMES H. LEES,
Iowa Geological Survey.



DR. HENRY ALBERT

IN MEMORIAM

DR. HENRY ALBERT

Those who have been interested in a greater and better health service for the State of Iowa, were grieved at the sudden death of Dr. Henry Albert, State Health Commissioner, who died at 8:15 a.m. on the 6th of April, 1930, in the Methodist Hospital, Des Moines. Doctor Albert was a man who had long been connected with problems concerning public health in Iowa and Nevada. It was my pleasure to have known this distinguished servant of the people of Iowa for many years as a member of the Iowa Academy of Science, as Professor at the State University of Iowa, and as Health Commissioner when the latter office was created by the State. I, among others, suggested his appointment because of his ability as an executive and a man of splendid training who would render the state distinguished service.

The subject of our sketch was born in the village of Walcott, in Scott county, Iowa, October 11, 1878. His parents were both of German ancestry, the father, Fred, and the mother, Catharina Stiefel. He received his early school training in the public schools of Reinbeck, where his parents moved early in his life. It was at Reinbeck that he prepared for entrance to the State University of Iowa. Here he pursued his work in science and liberal arts, receiving the degree of B.S. in 1900, and here, to further his work in science, preparatory for a medical career, he took graduate work. The M.S. degree, as well as the degree of Doctor of Medicine, was conferred in 1902. He was a fellow at the State University in 1901 to 1902.

Further medical work was augmented by a course in the University of Vienna, Austria, where he studied bacteriology and pathology in 1903. He never practiced medicine, preferring the field of teaching, administrative and research work.

He became an instructor in pathology and bacteriology in the State University of Iowa, in 1902, and professor and head of the department in 1903, and served until 1922. During the early period of his instructorship at the State University, the State legislature established a bacteriological laboratory, of which he became the Director in 1904, serving until 1922, when, because of tuberculosis, he moved to Nevada. Here, in 1922, he had charge of the State hygienic laboratory, located at Reno, Nevada.

During his connection with the Iowa State bacteriological laboratory, he was assistant physiologist of the State Insane Hospital at Independence, and also served as pathologist of the University Hospital of Iowa, from 1903 to 1914. He became the Commissioner of the Iowa State Department of Health in 1926, and served with great fidelity. The new law creating the department meant a broadening of the work and the opening up of new lines and Dr. Albert showed great skill as an organizer. The organization

consisted of: departments of epidemiology and communicable diseases, public health, nursing, education, barber and cosmetology, and law enforcement. A very valuable service was rendered by the public health lectures he inaugurated.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, American Association of State Health Commissioners, Iowa Academy of Science, Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, Iowa State Medical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Polk County Medical Society, Sigma Xi (honorary research society), and Phi Rho (medical fraternity). He was elected to the honorary medical fraternity, Alpha Omega Alpha, and was to have been initiated on May 1, 1930.

He published scientific papers on many subjects, among which we may mention: Leucocytes, Sarcoma of the Spleen, Pseudoparasites, Hypernephroma, Disinfectants, Hypertrophy of the Mammary Glands, Chordoma, Influenza, Typhoid bacilli carriers (*Journ. Ia. State Med. Soc.* in Sept., 1911, and *Am. Journ. Public Health*, February, 1909), Reactions Induced by Antityphoid Vaccination (*Am. Journ. of Med. Sci.*, February, 1912), Diphtheria, a Statistical Study of Certain Laboratory and Clinical Observations (the *Journ. of Infectious Diseases*, 4, No. 2, April 10, 1907, 210-218), The Opsonic Index and Vaccine Therapy (*Ia. Med. Journal*, No. 14, August 15, 1907, p. 66), Pseudomembraneous Inflammation of the Throat (*Ia. Med. Journal*, 14, Oct. 15, 1907, No. 4). In a paper on the pollution of underground waters with sewage through fissures in rocks (*Proc. Ia. Acad. of Sci.*, Vol. 20, p. 7) he concludes that pollution of water through fissures in rocks occurs more frequently than is generally thought to be the case and cites two epidemics, one at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and the other at Fort Dodge. He spent much time in a study of these epidemics and the conclusions were drawn after a most careful survey.

In another interesting paper, *The Inheritance of Syndactylis* (*Proc. Ia. Acad. of Sci.*, Vol. 22, p. 17), he reports on thirteen cases which he traced through four generations. In these cases heredity was obviously apparent. The inheritance of the abnormal union of the digits apparently conformed to Mendel's law as a dominant character. The disease was a latent character.

Doctor Albert, in a paper on vaccination (*Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. 18, p. 15) against typhoid fever, gives a resumé of vaccination against typhoid fever in which he discusses the reactions obtained in 46 students he vaccinated. The reactions were brought under four heads: (1) leucocyte, in which he noted a marked increase in the number of leucocytes; (2) Phagocytosis, where the phagocytes are increased; (3) agglutination; and (4) an increase in bacteriolysins.

Doctor Albert's thorough study of bacteriological problems made him an authority on the bacteriology of human diseases. In a paper, *Bacteriology and Pathology of Influenza*,¹ read before the sixty-eighth annual session of the Iowa State Medical Society, he gave a splendid resumé of this subject. He made a study of the bacteriology of the epidemic which started in 1918. He was not able to confirm the findings of eastern bacteriologists and those of England in regard to the Pfeiffer bacillus. His findings agreed with the later work done in France and Germany that it was not frequent and that it had the same relationship to influenza as *Pneumococcus* and *Streptococcus*,

¹ *Journ. of Ia. State Med. Soc.* Vol. 10, p. 34, 1920.

that is, as a secondary invader. He found the Pneumococcus as an invader in thirty-two per cent of the cases. Streptococci are also important secondary invaders. He discusses other organisms found by him, also a filtrable virus. There is also discussion of the pathology and a toxemia resulting from the infecting virus. He had a thorough knowledge of the pathology of the disease. The bacteria isolated differ as to locality and time of occurrence, "dependent, no doubt, on the predominance of a particular organism or of several organisms in the community at any particular time." This accounts very largely for the variations in findings of different bacteriologists. It is refreshing to find that in the presentation of the subject a thoroughly scientific method is pursued.

In a paper "Laboratory Diagnosis of Atypical Cases of Communicable Disease (Journ. Ia. Med. Soc. Vol. 8, p. 17) that Dr. Albert presented at the first annual short course for health officers at the University of Iowa, he calls attention to the rapid progress made in the diagnosis of communicable disease due to the progress of bacteriology, and special reference is made to certain atypical cases. "In many epidemics the number of cases that depart from the well defined clinical type are more numerous than the typical ones." He uses Diphtheria as an illustration of the old method of diagnosis, in which many grave errors in diagnosis resulted. In a cultural study of the nose and throat of every physician, nurse and patient in a certain ward of the University hospital it was found that several nurses were diphtheria carriers. The laboratory method helped to diagnose these cases and caused improved conditions. Then he calls attention to cultural bacteriological methods to diagnose typhoid, cerebrospinal meningitis and poliomyelitis. The microscope and bacteriological methods are indispensable in the correct and rapid diagnosis of certain diseases.

I have reviewed only a few of the many important scientific papers of Dr. Albert, but these are sufficient to show the trend of his thought and the modern scientific methods employed by him and his contributions to medical science.

The biennial reports made by him are very valuable and contain much valuable material prepared under his direction, such as the report of the division of Sanitary Engineering and Housing, by A. H. Wieters, Chief Engineer. In one of his papers he says: "Progress made but position still backward. Progress has been made but he is sorry the Department had not been able to render the service so greatly needed in the cause of disease prevention nor to meet the desires of many other citizens who are in close touch with the needs for effective public health work and efficient service on the part of the several occupations and professions where members are licensed by this department to practice in this state,² as in cosmetology, barbering, public health work, nursing, division of nursing education, division of examinations and licensures, public health lecture work, division of laboratories and epidemiology, division of communicable diseases, and division of vital statistics.

Doctor Albert had the best interest of the State in mind as shown in his recommendation made in his first biennial³ report in 1926. He urged county boards of health, county health visits, a continuance of the sanitary engineer-

² Full report of discussions, Iowa Documents, 1929, Rep. of State Dep't. of Health for the Biennial period, Jan. 30, 1928, 1-126.

³ Rep. State Dep't. Health for biennial period ending June 30, 1926.

ing division, the vaccination of all dogs where rabies occurred, the extension of the work on prophylaxis against diseases by making a large use of vaccines and sera, and a division of nursing. He did much in the way of publication of good literature pertaining to public health. This published material was in great demand by nurses, physicians and public schools. Some of it was written by him and some by the trained staff in the department. The occasional letters by him have been of great value to the state. The public health surveys were very important.

The Iowa Health Bulletin contained many important health items. In the first issue when he became health commissioner, Dr. Albert urged a health service for the rural community, as Governor John Hammill did in his biennial message. "The urgency of the need," Dr. Albert said, "Is still further emphasized by the fact that whereas in the country as a whole, only about one-half the population is rural, in Iowa about two-thirds of the people live on farms."

In a recent number of Iowa Public Health Bulletin (Vol. 44, page 10, 1930) he says: "Iowa people are gradually becoming public health conscious." He stressed the importance of this rural work and cited a number of cases where contagious diseases were spread because of ignorance of the disease affecting children, and, to quote from an address he made to the Farm Bureau in January, 1930: "Our country people are just as much entitled to effective health protection as city people are." The logical unit for full time health service is the county. This is true not only because with the county as a basis can the work be more economically done, but the county is also a proper basis from the standpoint of paying the cost of a county unit, since the county expenditures are in the hands of the county board of supervisors.

Doctor Albert inaugurated the Public Health Conference and he looked forward to the fifth annual conference which was held in Des Moines on April 3 and 4. He did not have the good fortune to be able to attend this important state conference.

Doctor Albert's motto was "For a clean state and a healthy people."

He married Edith Whiteis of Urbana, Iowa, June 10, 1905, a woman of fine poise who helped him with many of the problems that confronted him in his work. Besides the bequests to his relatives he made a generous gift of \$4,000.00 each for two parks. The money for the parks is to be paid out of his estate on the death of his wife, one to be located in Reinbeck and to bear the name of Reinbeck, and the other at Urbana, the childhood home of Mrs. Albert. For a number of years Dr. Albert gave a "service prize" to the University of Nevada. He provided the continuance of this service prize. He provided another fund of \$1,000.00., the interest of which is to be used as an annual public health contest.

Doctor Albert was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Iowa City, in politics a Republican and a member of the Lutheran Church.

L. H. PAMMEL



DR. D. S. FAIRCHILD

IN MEMORIAM

DR. D. S. FAIRCHILD

On March 22, 1930, the medical profession lost a great surgeon, physician and student of the medical sciences, as well as a man of unusual ability as an editor. He was an unusual man also because of the many fine scientific medical papers published by him; and a teacher of unusual distinction as well as a fine citizen.

His memory is cherished by a large number of persons connected with the Chicago and North Western Railway for his unusual service as a medical advisor. He was a pioneer in modern surgery and an unusual student of infectious diseases. Long before the matter of infectious diseases was taken up by the medical profession Dr. Fairchild stood in the front rank of those who saw the importance of the microscope in the study of diseases. Doctor Fairchild also had the distinction of being one of the best expert court witnesses because he was so thoroughly familiar with every phase of medical science.

It is indeed fitting that the Iowa Academy of Science should publish a brief sketch of the life of this pioneer surgeon as he was one of the pioneers to sponsor the earlier Iowa Academy of Science for the purpose of scientific research and the influence that these investigations, would have on medical science and the welfare of the State and Nation.

He was a charter member of the Old Iowa Academy of Science which met at Iowa City, August 25, 1875, and at the first meeting, January 25, 1876, he was elected secretary pro tem.

Doctor Fairchild never became officially connected with the present Academy of Science although he attended some of its meetings. One was in 1924 on which occasion he gave a resumé of the Iowa Academy of Science and made a brief reference¹ to some of the early scientific workers in the State and their trials.

Space will not permit me to even enumerate the many other splendid papers written by Dr. Fairchild. An appreciative sketch of the life of Dr. Fairchild appears in an article by Dr. Walter L. Bierring.²

The following appears in "The History of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State College"³:

"Dr. D. S. Fairchild was born September 16, 1847, at Fairfield, Vermont. He was educated at the academies of Franklin and Barre, Vermont, during the years 1866, 1867 and 1868, attended medical lectures at Michigan University at Ann Arbor and was graduated from the Albany Medical College of Union University in December, 1868. He read medicine in the office of J. O. Crampton of Fairfield, Vermont.

"The high rank attained by the Iowa State College Veterinary Department is due in a large measure to the high quality of the men who gave instruction to students. Doctor Fairchild's connection with the Veterinary College was in a way an accident. The doctor located at Ames to practice medicine, having had previous experience in the practice of medicine in the little village of High Forest, Minnesota. It was while he was a practitioner in Ames that he came in contact with the students as a medical advisor in the fall of 1872. The writer has a full account of his life in the *Alumnus* of

¹ Proceedings Ia. Acad. Sci., Vol. 31, 1924.

² Journ. Ia. Med. Soc., Vol. 18, No. 9, p. 347.

³ 1879 Semi-Centennial-1929, June 8 to 10, pp. 51-53.

Iowa State College.⁴ In 1872 he was appointed the regular college physician. In 1878 he became college health officer at the magnificent salary of \$100 a year, it being understood that he had the privilege of a private practice. It was during his incumbency that a college hospital was built in 1884, thus making the student medical service more efficient. These were indeed pioneer times and this kind of service was a venture.

"When the Veterinary College was established in 1879, Dr. Fairchild became, along with his other duties, the professor of pathology, histology and therapeutics and later there was added to these comparative anatomy. Along with his other duties he gave a few lectures to the students in psychology. All of this work was done at a salary of \$200 a year.

"Dr. Fairchild, in an account of the trials of the Veterinary College says, 'We have a feeling even to this day, that the professor (reference to Dr. H. Osborn) was somewhat amused at the course of instruction. We did not venture very far from the two volume work of Balfour on Embryology; this was a comparatively new branch of science. We had no apparatus, not even a chart. The best we could do was to make some drawings on a black-board.' There were many discouragements and disadvantages in giving instruction to the students. There was but little equipment, scarcely any room. The house formerly occupied by Dr. A. S. Welch became his laboratory in histology. Doctor Fairchild remained with the college and was an active lecturer until 1893 when he moved to Clinton, Iowa.

In addition to his teaching and practice at Ames, Dr. Fairchild became a member of the Faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1892. This college later became the medical department of Drake University and during its existence had as able a faculty as any medical college in the country. He first served as professor of surgery after severing his connection with Iowa State College and became Dean in 1903. In these capacities he did a splendid service.

"Doctor Fairchild has made many fine contributions to medical science and his fine literary ability is shown in his extensive work in the Journal of the Iowa Medical Society. The historical articles are especially valuable. His paper on Pioneer Practice is a most noteworthy one.

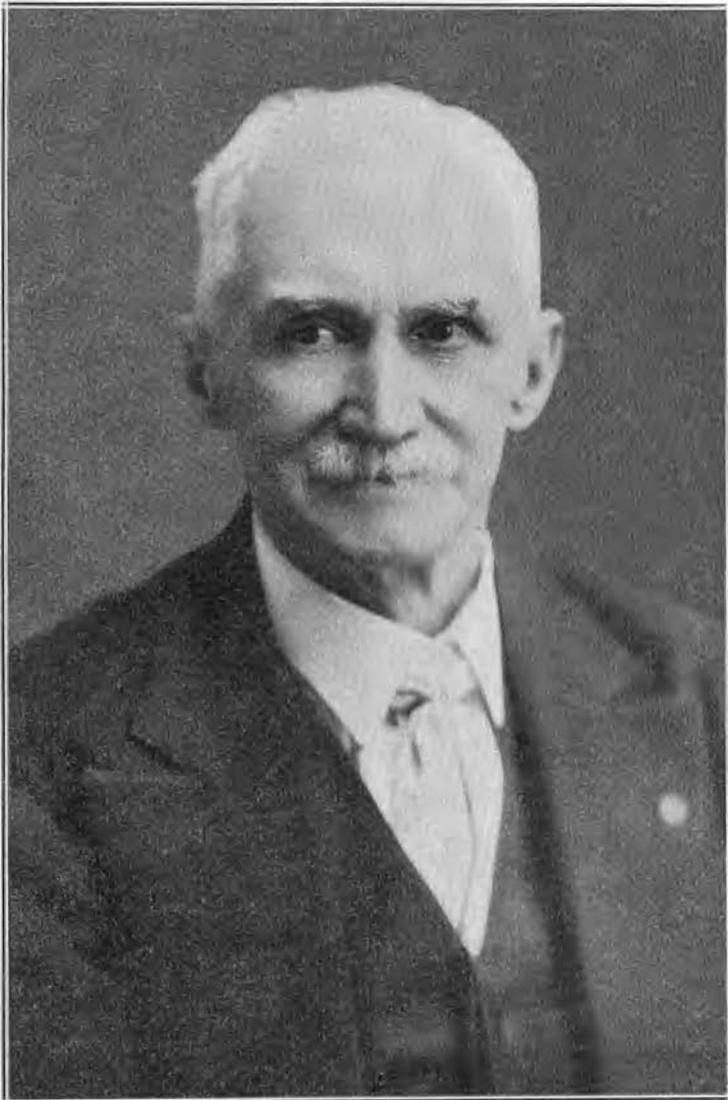
"Dr. Fairchild presided as Vice President of the Iowa State Medical Society in 1895, and became the president in 1896. He was also a member of the American Medical association, serving on several important committees. In 1896 he was elected president of the Iowa State Association of Railway Surgeons, president of the American Academy of Railway Surgeons in 1901 and of the American Association of Railway Surgeons in 1914 and president of the Western Surgical Association in 1914. He was one of the founders and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Throughout his long residence in Iowa he was one of the most active workers in the Iowa State Medical Society and made more numerous contributions than any other member. In 1873 he helped organize the Story County Medical Society and was made its first president. In 1874 he assisted in organizing the Central District Medical Society and was twice elected its president."

Doctor Fairchild became the local Chicago and North Western railway surgeon at Ames in 1883 and in 1893 was made the division surgeon of the same railroad. This work he continued until his removal to Clinton. In 1893 he became surgeon of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway. In 1900 a similar appointment was received with the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. The Chicago Burlington and Quincy gave him a similar appointment. To these railways he gave a splendid service and many compliments are paid him for this work. No one has since equalled him as an expert witness in the many legal cases involved.

Doctor Fairchild married Miss Wilhelmina C. Tattersall of High Forest, Minnesota, in 1870 and three children were born out of this union: Dr. David Fairchild, Jr., now of Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. A. W. Brown of Davenport, and Mrs. Harry Reynolds of Philadelphia.

L. H. PAMMEL

⁴ November, 1925, p. 145.



REVEREND GEORGE BENNETT

IN MEMORIAM

REVEREND GEORGE BENNETT

With the passing of the Reverend George Bennett science and conservation have lost an ardent worker. More than any man of his time George Bennett brought before the common people of this country the value of scientific study and the need of conserving our great natural resources.

Born in rural Cornwall, England, on January 9, 1852, Mr. Bennett spent his boyhood days upon the farm where he acquired the interest in living things, to the protection of which he devoted so much effort in later years.

His formal instruction was in a private school for boys. Keen observation and careful reading contributed more, however, to his education than did institutional learning.

In 1894, he came to America with his wife and four children, all of whom, together with a fifth child born in this country, survive him.

Mr. Bennett, having held pastorates in England, New England, and in Iowa, retired from regular ministerial work in 1915, but continued to preach on occasion and was called the "Bishop of all Outdoors." He devoted much time to lecturing and writing on conservation and wild life study. Mr. Bennett was a naturalist of considerable scientific skill and a journalist of no mean ability. He served on the staff of the "Stamford Advocate" and the "Johnson County Independent." He edited the "Iowa Conservation Magazine," in which appeared many articles from his own pen, and later founded and edited the magazine "Wild Ways."

He directed the educational activities of the Iowa Fish and Game Department; championed the cause of the Isaac Walton League; organized the Order of Wild Life Protection, and in 1918 founded The American School of Wild Life Protection, at McGregor, Iowa.

In furthering this cause Mr. Bennett secured the aid of men from our state institutions and those of neighboring states, men who responded cheerfully to his appealing urge to labor with no return but the good done in sacrificing service, which was his own creed of life.

Mr. Bennett served the cause of science long and well by awakening interest in scientific subjects among all classes of people. He carried his message to large public gatherings and to small groups. His subjects, always vital, were scientific and popular, and his style, literary and convincing.

Mr. Bennett died at McGregor, Iowa, August 16, 1928, during the session of the Wild Life School, where, following his death, memorial exercises were held. Tributes were given by Dr. George F. Kay, Dr. L. H. Pammel and others and resolutions adopted by the faculty were read.

High praise is given Mr. Bennett by men closely associated with him. Dr. W. T. Hornaday calls him "Defender of Wild Life," and in the warfare for the salvage of birds and game, a "soldier of clear vision, fine courage and tireless energy."

Professor G. B. MacDonald says, "The most striking thing about Mr. Bennett was his optimism. He was never discouraged even under the most discouraging circumstances. He spent his time and energy with very slight compensation in a life of service, knowing full well that not he but others would hear the songs of the birds and enjoy the fragrance of the flowers which he so enthusiastically worked to preserve."

Mr. Bennett is buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery, Darian, Conn. Just as his life work on conservation ended where he started the movement of the Outdoor School, so his last resting place is where he did some of his first work in this country.

Although Mr. Bennett is lost to us in person, he still lives in the lives and works of others whom he inspired and awakened to scientific research.

FLORENCE SINCLAIR CHAPIN