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In Memoriam: Fred C. Werkenthin; Chalmers Colin Norwood

John N. Martin

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FRED C. WERKENTHIN

IN MEMORIAM

FRED C. WERKENTHIN

On June 13, 1922, death again entered the ranks of Iowa scientists, taking from us a young botanist of unusual promise.

Fred C. Werkenthin received his A.B. and A.M. degrees from the University of Texas in 1915. He was assistant professor of biology in the College of New Mexico and station plant pathologist, 1915-1918; associate professor of botany and assistant botanist in experiment station in New Hampshire State College, 1918-1920; instructor in botany at Iowa State College, 1920-1921, and assistant professor, 1921-1922. A short time before his death, he was elected head of the botany and bacteriology department in the University of Louisiana.

While connected with the New Mexico Agricultural College, Mr. Werkenthin published a number of papers on plant diseases and their control. He did some excellent work on the fungus diseases of Texas soils, the results of which were published in Phytopathology, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1916. At the time of his death, he had ready for publication a paper on the classification of Cucurbits and one on the history of plant breeding. Thus, within a period of seven years after graduating from the university, he had published more than a half dozen excellent papers and had been advanced to the headship of botany and bacteriology in one of the leading southern universities.

All his promotions were indicative of his merits. Like many others, he was forced to earn most of the expenses of his education. He was an incessant worker and had the ability of accomplishing much in a short time.

Fred was not only an excellent investigator, but he was a remarkable teacher. He was able, as few teachers are, to combine the lecture and recitation methods so efficiently as to cover the subject matter one could ordinarily cover in a lecture and yet receive about as much response from the class as ordinarily obtained in recitation. There were no passive recipients in his

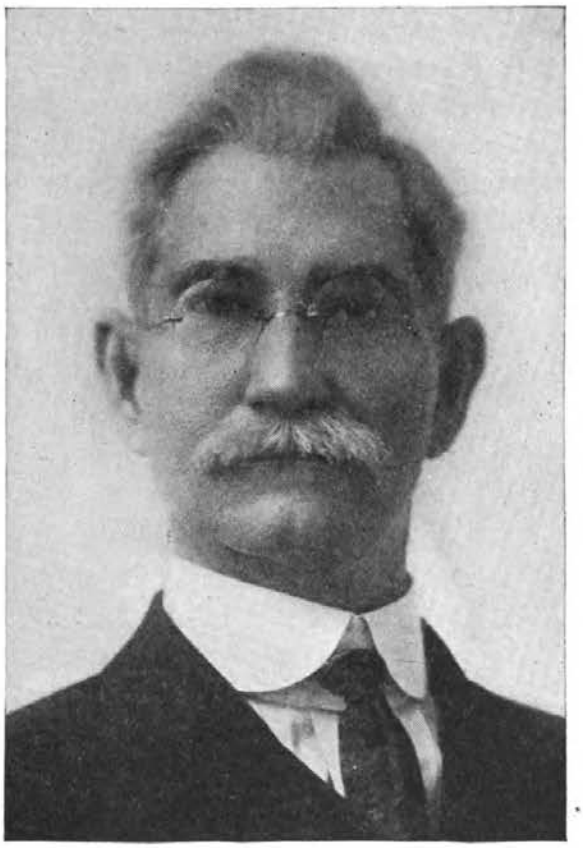
classes. In addition to the asset of an impressive personality he was always prepared to the smallest details for his lectures, laboratories, or any other tasks.

His students sought him as a friend and advisor and his office was at times an assembly for those wanting counsel on various matters.

As an associate, his chief motive was to help others. If there was an opportunity to do something for his fellowmen that would make this world "seem better to live in" as he himself expressed it, he always saw the opportunity and turned it to account.

He was unblemished morally and was guided by a high standard of ideals. In his death, not only has science lost a young man of great promise, but to all humanity there befalls the loss of a young man, clean and with the noblest of aims, the type of man the world so much needs.

JOHN N. MARTIN



CHALMERS COLIN NORWOOD

CHALMERS COLIN NORWOOD

1853-1922

Professor Chalmers Colin Norwood was born in the state of Alabama in 1853, of Scotch parentage. His early boyhood was spent in that state and in North Carolina, where he attended Davison College, receiving his A.B. degree from this institution in 1878, at the age of twenty-five; later he attended Johns Hopkins University as a graduate student, where he sat under the instruction of Simon Newcomb and other eminent scientists of those times, receiving his A. M. in 1882. He was professor of mathematics in the Maryland Agricultural college from 1882 until 1886, whereupon he returned to his Alma Mater, to become professor of physics and astronomy, which position he held for two years, 1886-1888. Professor Norwood then became an examiner in the Patent office at Washington, D. C., occupying this post from 1888 until 1893, at which time he was compelled to seek a western location to benefit the health of Mrs. Norwood. He removed to the west and occupied the following positions in turn, all of an educational and scientific nature: professor of mathematics and physics, Agricultural College of Utah, 1895-1897; superintendent of public schools, Evanston, Wyoming, 1897-1904; professor of physics and applied mathematics, Westminster College, 1904-1918; graduate student in physics, Columbia University, summer session, 1917; service with Hercules Powder Company, Ballistic engineering, 1918-1919; and professor of physics, Central College, Missouri, 1919-1920.

Professor Norwood entered work in the field of science in Iowa in September, 1920, when he assumed the duties of the chair of physics at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, where, by his quiet unassuming manner and wonderful spirit of coöperation and helpfulness, he quickly endeared himself to both faculty and student body. Although the senior member of the faculty from the point of age, his mind remained open and he was quick in his appreciation and as keen in the assimilation of the newest discoveries and theories of science, as were his pupils for those new

truths he so simply and adeptly unfolded to them from his lecture room.

At the time of his death he was engaged in an intensive study of the Einstein "Theory of Relativity." His last public utterance, aside from his class room work was a lecture on this subject delivered before a joint meeting of the physics and chemistry clubs of Iowa Wesleyan College, and it is said by those who were privileged to hear it, to have been remarkable, both for the clearness of his conception of the theory and also for his ability to explain it by the use of such simple terms and illustrations that many of the pertinent facts might be grasped by even the under-graduate student.

It may truthfully be said, that Professor Norwood sacrificed his life for science, for the immediate cause of his fatal illness was exposure brought about by a strenuous trip to Iowa City to sit in on the lecture of Dr. H. A. Lorenz, of the University of Leyden, Holland, on the subject of "Old and New Mechanics," given before the students of the Graduate College of the State University on the evening of March, 6, 1922. The trip required his being up on two consecutive nights, which exertion overtaxed his strength, the physical strain being too great for a man of his years. He returned home exhausted and suffering from an illness which quickly developed into pneumonia, and on March the 30th, 1922, he fell asleep in death as quietly as he had lived.

Although a member of the Iowa Academy of Science but a short time, he impressed all those who were privileged to know him as an earnest student and a Christian gentleman. He was conscientious in his work and faithful to every duty. His quaint, gentle mannerisms will not soon be forgotten, and though he is gone, his influence for the good of science will live on in the lives of the four generations of students, many of whom are now eminent scientists, who sat under his teachings.

In 1889 he was married to Mary Greenleaf Thuthell, and is survived by her and one daughter, Helen Alice, who was born to the union. His earthly remains were taken to Matewan, New Jersey, where they were laid to rest.

BEN HUR WILSON