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DR. BESSEY WAS PIONEER IN BOTANY

A SHORT HISTORY OF HIS WONDERFUL INFLUENCE IN WEST

GREATEST WORK AS TEACHER

Introduced Compound Microscope in West—Attracted Students From All Quarters of the Globe—Inspired Teacher

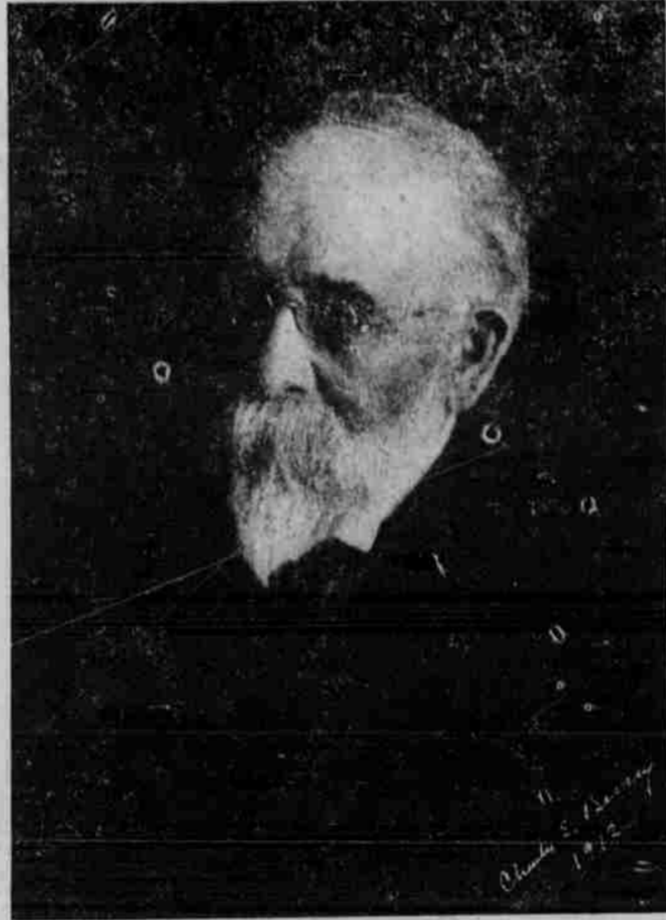
To few public servants is given a greater potentiality of directing the thought and moulding the careers of men and of nations than to the college professor. After all possible has been said of the many goodly imprints left by this great man we must conclude that Dr. Bessey's greatest and most enduring service to mankind was rendered through the medium of the classroom or laboratory. He has always been known and will ever be known first as a great and inspiring teacher. To be sure he was also admitted first rank among able administrators and furthermore he was a successful investigator of diverse botanical problems. His publications in Science are many. But most of all he was great as a teacher and the publications which have reached most profoundly upon the public mind within and beyond the confines of botany are his textbooks.

Dr. Bessey entered the field at a time when the facts and theories of his chosen subject and profession were in a very chaotic and unsatisfactory state. Thus the very conditions of the time offered him a glorious opportunity to collate and prepare important scientific materials and to crystallize pedagogical methods for the benefit of those who chose to sit in his classes. To Dr. Bessey more than to any other botanist must be given the credit for wisely laying the foundations from which has risen the carefully planned and polished botanical curricula which are now so prominent in many American colleges and other institutions. He performed this work especially in the line of developing the botanical textbook and laboratory much as Sachs had done in Germany. He was the man who introduced the botanical laboratory with its compound microscopes and other important apparatus into our western schools. He used to tell with much pleasure of reminiscence how he "carried the first compound microscopes to the University of Minnesota," and how so many of the now common methods of instruction were "modeled" after the Bessey prototype.

As a teacher and research guide his infectious enthusiasm was sure to attract students from all quarters of the globe. During the first few years of his half-century professorship the students were naturally few. Colleges were small then and botany was scarcely yet recognized as an important scientific subject apart from the general science of the college course. Those were the days when the classics, mathematics and history held undisputed control of college curricula! The botanist was merely the "lover of flowers" or "flower fanatic," a man who dealt especially with horticultural

(Continued on Last Column)

IN MEMORIAM



DEAN C. E. BESSEY

CONVOCATION EXERCISES IN MEMORY OF CHARLES EDWIN BESSEY

Memorial Hall, Thursday, October 7, 11 O'Clock

STRINGS AND ORGAN—"Prelude"..... Reinecke

RESPONSIVE READING—

Chancellor Samuel Avery

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
For Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest the table before me in the midst of mine enemies.
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ADDRESSES—

Professor Grove Ettinger Barber
Regent Edward Urovost Brown
Dean Albert F. Woods, University of Minnesota

STRINGS AND ORGAN—"Andante Cantabile"Tschaikowsky

THE LIFE OF DR. BESSEY

Chronology

Born, May 21, 1845, on a farm near Milton, Wayne County, Ohio.
Graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College in 1869 with the degree of Bachelor of Science.
Received his Master of Science degree from the same college in 1872. Studied under Dr. Asa Gray at Harvard in 1872, 1873 and 1875.
Received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Iowa University in 1879.
Was professor of Botany at the Iowa State College from 1870 to 1884.
Was acting president of Iowa State College in 1882.
Came to Nebraska in 1884 and became the first dean of the College of Agriculture.
Was professor of Botany in the University of Nebraska from 1884 until his death.
Was acting president of the University of Nebraska in 1888-91, in 1899 and in 1909.
Was dean of deans from 1909 until his death.
Died at Lincoln, Nebraska, February 25, 1915.

Scientific Honors

President of the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, 1889-91.
President of the Botanical Society of America, 1895-6.
President of the department of Natural Science of the National Educational Association, 1895-6.
President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1910-12.
President of the Nebraska Academy of Science.

BESSEY MEMORIAL SERVICES TODAY

LABORATORIES CLOSED TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO ATTEND

DEAN A. F. WOODS TO SPEAK

Prof. G. E. Barber and Regent E. P. Brown Will Give Addresses—Musical Numbers Included—In Memorial Hall

A memorial service in honor of Dr. Edwin Bessey will be held at Convocation this morning. Classes will be excused and all laboratories closed in order to allow the students to attend. Addresses and music are planned.

Dr. Bessey spent his last and best service to Nebraska and Nebraska students when he could have held much more remunerative positions and it is in appreciative memorium of his love and devotion that this Convocation is held.

Prof. G. E. Barber, Dean Albert Woods of Minnesota, and Regent Brown will give short addresses. Two musical numbers will be given by the stringed orchestra.

The second orchestra number, "Andante Cantabile," from the Fifth Symphony, Tschaikowsky, is in special memory of Dr. Bessey. He was presiding at vespers when it was played for the first time at the University and was very enthusiastic in his appreciation of the beautiful andante.

tural features and who knew the technical names of plants. But as the years passed on Dr. Bessey's students were numbered by the dozen, then by the score and finally by the hundred during the later years when our gracious leader enjoyed most highly the fruition of his long years of strenuous service. This enjoyment was especially pleasant to him because he saw many of the theories and contentions of his earlier days accepted by the great body of botanists, and most of all was the pleasure deepened as he saw one after another of his students taking place in the front rank of that body. One of Dr. Bessey's major delights was to look over the lists of former students of his department and to picture them, oftentimes in distant lands, preaching and teaching as he had taught and contributing of their thought to the world accumulation of knowledge. He was never too busy to drop everything for a cordial greeting and boyish chat with his "boys," when they dropped in upon him as they chanced to be in Lincoln for a few hours.

Hundreds of instructors in American schools and scores of investigators in various offices of many institutions of learning and research owe their very life-ambition to the initial boost administered by Dr. Bessey at the critical moment. This is true not only for botanically inclined young people but also for hundreds of others whose primary inclination has drawn them into other fields of accomplishment.

This was the work that he enjoyed most, the work which kept him young and in this he fulfilled a divine commission to a degree to be coveted by at least every college professor.

RAYMOND J. POOL