

MEMORIAL OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ON THE DEATH OF PROF. A. A. WRIGHT.

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Academy of Science adopted the following memorial, prepared at its request by Prof. Lynds Jones, in respect to the death of Prof. A. A. Wright, of Oberlin, a member and former president of the Academy.

HERBERT OSBORN, *Pres.*

L. B. WALTON, *Sec.*

Albert Allen Wright died at his home in Oberlin on April 2d, 1905, of acute peritonitis after an illness of scarcely twenty-four hours. Prof. Wright was graduated from Oberlin College, in 1865, received the degree of A. M. from Oberlin in 1868, the degree of Ph. B. from the School of Mines, Columbia College, 1875, was Prof. of Mathematics and Natural Science, Berea College, Kentucky, 1870-1873, and was called to the chair of Geology and Natural History of Oberlin College in 1874. With the change of title to Professor of Geology and Zoology his service at Oberlin has been continuous since his first appointment.

Prof. Wright was born in Oberlin in 1846. He served as 100 day man during the closing days of the Rebellion, and received his baccalaureate degree the following year at the age of nineteen. He began early to develop his natural taste for science, and soon became recognized as a safe scientific thinker and investigator. He was one who never rushed to conclusions however enticing the facts discovered appeared, but took time to look into every possible avenue of approach to the subject, being satisfied only when his conclusions rested upon a foundation that could not be shaken. Consequently he was not a prolific writer. Indeed, he gave himself so unreservedly to his teaching and his students that research work was possible only during his brief vacations and at odd hours.

Prof. Wright was a modest, retiring man, always shrinking from publicity, yet his service to the community and the state becomes conspicuous in his absence. Oberlin's unrivalled water and sewer systems are largely due to his hard study and keen insight. To him is almost wholly due the inception of the topographical survey of Ohio. In this he was at first defeated, but by untiring efforts and dogged determination saw the issue to a successful finish. He was also among the charter members of the Ohio State Academy of Science, which he served as President.

Probably among his most conspicuous contributions to science was his correction of Dr. Newberry's error in the true arrangement of the ventral armor of *Dinichthys*. While the publications over his own name were relatively few, his inspiration

to others and his constant interest and unfailing kindness in spending himself for others who worked under him will continue long to be a potent factor in the advancement of science.

Professor Wright was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a member of the Ohio State Academy of Science.

LYNDS JONES
