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Portrait of Professor W. R. Dumble

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Every student who has been on campus for a while will have heard of Professor Wilson R. Dumble, outstanding member of the department of English. His fame has spread far over the campus and for many good reasons.

After trying for several days to catch up with him, I finally stopped Professor Dumble long enough to get an interview. He is a very busy person these days. In addition to teaching the proficiency students in Engineering English 413 and 414, he is a faculty adviser to Phi Delta Theta, faculty adviser to Quadrangle Jesters, a member of the Board of Control of the **Ohio State Engineer**, handles publicity for the department of English (which he declares is a full time job in itself), is a member of the Faculty Club, conducts the Book Shelf in the **Ohio State Engineer** and has his own fifteen minute Book Review over WOSU at seven o'clock every Friday night. It's a rather impressive and varied list of activities.

However his life has been just as varied. Born in Marion, Ohio, in 1895, Professor Dumble did a lot of things before he became a member of the department of English here at Ohio State. Like the boys of today Professor Dumble was in college, the University of Pennsylvania to be precise, when war broke out in 1917. He served overseas from May, 1918, to March, 1919. In France he was an M. P. for a year and from the grin of his face it must have been either exciting or amusing, I couldn't tell which.

When Professor Dumble came home, he got a job on the **Marion Tribune**. He was a sturdy Republican on a decidedly Democratic paper. The

Tribune is now defunct.

It was in a rather round about way that Professor Dumble entered the teaching profession. One night the French teacher of the Marion Harding High School died suddenly. The next morning Professor Dumble was the new teacher of the French class. The school board must have been surprised because he had never done any teaching before.

Deciding that teaching was his profession and realizing that he could never get very far without a degree, Professor Dumble decided to finish his education. He came to Ohio State and got his Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1928. In 1929 he got that Master of Arts degree in English. Thinking of the boys leaving now and coming back later, I asked Professor Dumble how he felt about returning to the school after the war. "I didn't mind it at all. I had always liked to read and I had always liked school. No, I didn't feel out of place at all," he said.

Those are the facts about Professor Dumble, but they tell little about his character. He is a small, slight, well dressed individual with a soft voice and an air of suppressed energy. He can talk on any number of subjects. Very interested in people, he is also very observant. Professor Dumble has a sense of humor too, and when that gleam comes into his eyes, something is coming. He pointed to two weird, green masks on the wall and said, "People always ask me where I got them. I always tell them that those are two of the students that I flunked." That is Professor Dumble.