

LOUISE DUFFIELD CUMMINGS

1870 - 1947

Louise Duffield Cummings, who died in Wayne, Michigan, on the 9th of May, 1947, at the age of, 77, brought distinction to Vassar College by her unusual accomplishments in her field, during her 33 years of service here. In her undergraduate work at the University of Toronto, and in graduate study and research at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Chicago, as well as at Bryn Mawr where she took her doctorate, she won recognition through various honors and awards which culminated in the honorary Doctorate in science at Toronto. Her many researches which were chiefly in number systems, correspondencies, systems of configurations, nets, and group theory, appeared in mathematical Journals published in the United States and abroad. This research of many years which contributed to Vassar's name beyond our area, decreased only when she retired, in 1935, because of poor health.

The clarity of Miss Cummings' teaching and the friendly atmosphere she created in her class room were well appreciated by her students who knew her to be a friend as well as teacher. She was enjoyed by the whole community as a happy, active member of the social group, contributing pleasure through her pungent wit and delightful humor. In all situations she was resourceful and helpful, creating in others a repose of soul by her own quiet and unworried response to life's disturbances. All who knew her counted her a most generous, loyal friend in whose welcome lay warmth, and in whose companionship were both stimulus and happy comfort. Hers was a large and rich soul.

Paul A. Northrop

Mary Evelyn Wells

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