

## CHARLES WILLIAM MOULTON

1859 - 1924

Again it becomes a sad necessity for the Faculty of Vassar College to note in its minutes the death of one of its oldest and most respected members. Charles William Moulton, Doctor of Philosophy of Johns Hopkins University, came to Vassar College in 1892 as Associate Professor of Chemistry. In 1898 he was raised to the rank of Professor of Chemistry and served as head of the department until his death on September 13, 1924. His tenure had therefore covered the entire history of Chemistry as a separate department in this college and there can be no more fitting memorial to his ability and faithfulness than the organization and fine standards which he had developed.

He was a scientist in the best sense of the word, searching for the truth. He had great capacity for investigation and his scientific curiosity suggested constantly new subjects for investigation. This quality of mind together with his practical ingenuity resulted in novel and valuable methods of lecture demonstration. Those best qualified to judge believe that he could have added greatly to positive knowledge had he devoted himself to research. But he quite willingly sacrificed in large degree this possibility for that which had the greater call -- teaching, the building up of his department organization and the study of college educational problems. His ability as a practical man of affairs was displayed in the planning and construction of Sanders Memorial Laboratory. Every part of this building testifies to his practical ingenuity and his far-sightedness. His constant attention and thoughtfulness made it perhaps one of the best planned, most workable and best equipped chemical laboratories in the United States. Indeed many of those who have gone for it to work elsewhere have called it the best they had known. Due to his care it was built with great economy.

At one time or another he had served with conspicuous and unusual effectiveness on most of the committees of the Faculty and helped to establish many of its present standards and working procedures. But he did not confine his connection with the college to

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departmental and faculty duties. He was for some years a member of the college faculty-student orchestra and was a constant participant in student festivities. One of his most cherished avocations was

the study of birds and out of door life he had always enjoyed. The breadth of his interests was revealed in his skill in woodworking and other craftsmanship, and in the great pleasure he found in his later years in reading French and Spanish.

He combined in remarkable degree two great qualifications of the teacher -- constant insistence on high standards and thoroughness; and the ability to stimulate not only in the scholarly minded but in the average undergraduate genuine and lasting interest in science and intellectual interests. His name will endure in the list of great teachers and constructive organizers who have made Vassar College what it is.

Herbert E. Mills

Annie Louise Macleod

Mary Louise Landon

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