

MEMORIAL OF F. B. PECK*

A. HENRY FRETZ, *Easton, Pa.*

We record with regret the death of Professor Frederick Burritt Peck at his home in Easton, Pennsylvania, on November 2, 1925.

He was born at Seneca Castle (Phelps), New York, on August 9, 1862, of New England ancestors who came as pioneer settlers to the Phelps and Gorham Purchase.

He graduated from Amherst College in 1886 with the degree of A.B., electing studies in biology with the thought of studying medicine. His college course was interrupted by a year's absence due to the need of recuperation after an attack of typhoid fever.

He taught mathematics and science at Tillotson Academy, Trinidad, Colorado, 1886 to 1890 and was principal of the school 1890 to 1891. By applying his academic knowledge to geology while in Colorado he became devoted to this science and accomplished a considerable amount of practical work. He became Assistant Professor of Geology at Amherst in 1891 under Dr. B. K. Emerson. He lectured on geology at Amherst and Smith College during 1893-1894. After two years of study at the University of Munich under Dr. Paul Von Groth, he received the degree of Ph.D. In 1897 he was made head of the newly created Department of Geology at Lafayette College.

In 1898 Pardee Hall was destroyed by an incendiary fire. The immediate need of materials was filled by loans from Dr. Richards of Lehigh University and Dr. Kemp of Columbia. The present department stands as a monument of personal achievement to Professor Peck.

In 1901 he married Miss Cora Burr Horton of Binghamton, New York, by whom he is survived and a daughter Mary Gray Peck of the class of 1926 of Vassar College.

His chief publications included the "Crystallography of Bournite," *Z. Kryst.*, **27**, 1896, and measurements of heat conductivity on the same mineral incorporated in another article, and a Topographic and Geologic Survey of Pennsylvania, Report No. 5, which included descriptions of two distinctly different subjects, talc and serpentine of Northampton County, and the Portland

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cement materials of the Lehigh District with notes on the Cambrian basal conglomerate.

He was employed by the U. S. Geological Survey and did geologic mapping of the Carnegie quadrangle and prepared reports on coal in Indiana and Jefferson Counties, Pennsylvania. After resigning from the Survey he was retained by mining firms in Boston doing exploration and valuation work in Colorado, Arizona, Utah and Mexico. He also did private geological work locally on cement rock, slate and clay. His last active work related to the possibility of oil in western Alabama and the occurrences of natural resources during the World War. He visited the scene of the Messina earthquake immediately after the catastrophe and in addition to the collection of scientific data he took photographs which he used in a popular educational lecture.

In faculty matters he was a tactful debater and staunch advocate of the natural sciences. As a teacher he created an enduring interest in his particular subjects. He was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and active in the Lafayette Chapter. He has had the distinction of having the *Melange* (college year book) twice dedicated to him.

He was a wrestler while in college in the 135 pound class and enjoyed keenly vigorous outdoor exercise which added to his enthusiasm in geological trips in the Rocky Mountains and the Bad Lands while on expeditions for the University of Nebraska.

He was a member of many scientific societies. He was a man of much culture with appreciation of the best in music which was his great recreation while studying in Germany. Archaeology interested him from its artistic phase. His relaxation study was anthropology.

His social affability and scientific knowledge make his death a distinct loss.