

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES WILFORD COOK*

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It is with deep regret that we record the passing on February 17, 1933 of Charles Wilford Cook, professor of economic geology at the University of Michigan. His death at the age of 50 years has removed from our midst not only an enthusiastic teacher but also an able investigator as well. Dr. Cook had wide and varied interests as revealed by the scope of his published articles and his affiliations with learned societies. He was one of the charter fellows of the Mineralogical Society of America and also held memberships in



CHARLES WILFORD COOK
1882-1933

the Geological Society of America, the Society of Economic Geologists, the Lake Superior Mining Institute and the American Institute of Mining Engineers. He always took an active interest in the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters and on one occasion served as Vice-President of the section of geology and mineralogy.

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His rather unusual grasp and understanding of the various phases of geology and closely related subjects was due in no small measure to his early broad training in the fundamental sciences, especially chemistry. Dr. Cook possessed an unusually retentive memory for detailed information that was always at his command. Because of his training he was able to bring into the class room stimulating discussions that were greatly appreciated by the advanced students. Also due to his insight and appreciation of the value of the cognate subjects of geology, such as chemistry, physics, mathematics and mineralogy, he was able to serve and did serve for many years as a wise counselor to students majoring in geology and mineralogy.

Dr. Cook was born in Fenton, Michigan, Sept. 17, 1882, where he received his secondary education and prepared for college. He entered the University of Michigan in 1900 and obtained his A.B. degree four years later and his M.S. in 1906. During this period his special fields of interest were chemistry and mineralogy as revealed by his crystallographic papers on datolite and iodyrite.

In 1906 he accepted the position of Professor of Chemistry at Pacific University in Oregon. However, two years later (1908) he again returned to the University of Michigan serving first as an assistant in mineralogy and in 1909 he received the appointment of Instructor in economic geology. His ability and value to the department were recognized by rapid promotions through the various ranks to that of a full professorship in economic geology in 1925.

As the production of salt is one of the important mineral industries of Michigan it was but natural that Dr. Cook's attention should be drawn to certain problems relating to the occurrence of this mineral. After three years of study his 188 page report entitled "Brine and Salt Deposits of Michigan, their Origin, Distribution and Exploitation" was presented in 1913 as his doctor's thesis. This was printed the following year as Publication 15 of the Michigan Geological Survey.

In order that he might keep in touch with the practical side of his profession Dr. Cook always spent his summer vacations in the field. As assistant geologist of the Michigan Geological Survey (1910-1913) he prepared a number of reports on some of the mineral resources of the state and assisted in the appraisal of mines. Considerable time was also spent in southern and western United States and in Canada, in search for some of the rare minerals, es-

pecially molybdenite. His advice and expert service were frequently sought by interested parties and corporations but he never permitted this outside work to interfere seriously with his University duties.

More recently, with the advent of the discovery of petroleum in Michigan, he found it necessary to spend the greater portion of his time conducting courses in oil geology and in carrying on investigations both in the field and laboratory. The results of these studies are recorded in a number of highly interesting papers dealing with the capillary relationship of oil and water, and on the fractionation and decomposition of petroleum during migration.

Professor Cook's fine personality and cheerful, genial disposition were outstanding personal attributes that gave him a wide circle of friends. That he should have been taken at so early an age is a severe blow to his associates, to the University that he served continuously for nearly a quarter of a century, and to the profession at large.

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