MEMORIAL OF GEORGE MARTIN HALL

HAROLD CLYDE AMICK, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.*

George Martin Hall died at his home in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 28th of April, 1941, at the age of forty-nine, after a period of failing health that lasted more than four years. He was born in Baltimore, September 13, 1891, the son of George Arlow Hall and Alice Josephine (Higgins) Hall. His early education ended with his graduation from the Baltimore City College in 1909. In the fall of 1911 he entered The Johns Hopkins University and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1915. The following autumn he began graduate work in the Department of Geology of the same University. He continued his studies of geology until he entered the Signal Corps of the United States Army in March 1918. He was commissioned in August 1918 and served as a Second Lieutenant until November 1920. In December of the same year he returned to Johns Hopkins and again took up his work in geology and received the Ph.D. degree in 1923.

During part of the summer of 1915, he did field work on the Silurian rocks of western Maryland for the Maryland Geological Survey. The summer of 1916 was spent investigating fire clays of Allegany and Garrett Counties, Maryland, for the same organization. The summer of 1917 was spent in Kentucky and Kansas, working for the Roxana Petroleum Corporation. In June 1921 he received an appointment as Assistant Geologist on the United States Geological Survey and was assigned to the Ground Water Division of the Water Resources Branch. He spent the summers from 1921 to 1924 investigating the ground water resources of eastern and central Montana. From 1921 until his death he remained a part time member of the Ground Water Division of the Geological Survey. During the later years of his life most of the time devoted to the Ground Water Division was spent in the office at Washington, D. C. During the summer of 1925, he was engaged in field work in southeastern Pennsylvania, the results of which were presented in Bulletin W2 of the State Topographic and Geologic Survey. In the fall of 1923, he accepted an instructorship in Geology at The Johns Hopkins University, a position he held until the fall of 1926 when he came to The University of Tennessee.

Dr. Hall came to The University of Tennessee as an Associate Professor of Geology, at the invitation of Dr. C. H. Gordon. He held this position until 1929 when he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Geology and Geography, a position he held until his death.

Coming to The University of Tennessee in full vigor at the age of thirty-four, Dr. Hall devoted his time and energy to the broad problems of higher education and scientific research. His devotion to science and

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teaching was very real and the result of much thought by a man who had seen the other aspects of the world. His geologic work was straightforward and sincere. Active field work always appealed to him and when not connected with an official survey he was working on a project of his own choosing. When he came to Tennessee he began work on the Paleozoic rocks of the Ridge and Valley Province and the premature termination of his active career left unfinished a program that had promised to contribute much information to the field of Earth Science.

Dr. Hall considered the earth his laboratory, which led him to travel extensively. Some of the high lights of his career were the trips he made with the International Geologic Congress. During the summer of 1926, when the Congress met in Spain, he visited numerous points of geologic interest in northwest Europe and north Africa. Then in 1929 he went with the Congress to the major points of interest throughout South Africa. In 1933 when the Congress met in Washington, D. C., he was one of those who took an active part in entertaining our distinguished visitors. He also took the tours which covered the most attractive parts of the continent of North America. It was his intention to attend the Congress that was held in Russia in 1937 but failing health prevented him from doing so. On these tours he made the friendship of many of the outstanding men in the fields of Earth Science throughout the world, and he always came back with a great store of first-hand information which he gladly imparted to his students and his many friends.

As a reward for the high quality of his scientific work, he was elected to fellowship or membership in the following national professional societies: Geological Society of America, Mineralogical Society of America, American Institute of Mining Engineers, Society of Economic Geologists, and American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He was also a member of the Cosmos Club, Gamma Alpha, and the Society of Sigma Xi, and had been honored by being selected for listing in *Who's Who in America.*

Soon after coming to The University of Tennessee, he joined the Tennessee Academy of Science and served as its president in 1934. He also served as president of the Knoxville Technical Society in 1932. He was a charter member of the Knoxville Science Club and had the honor of being its first president in 1934. He demonstrated his interest in local civic affairs by joining the Knoxville Rotary Club and he found the association with its members very gratifying.

Until his health failed, Dr. Hall enjoyed life and never took himself too seriously. Disappointments were in his experiences, but he retained a genial personality which radiated cheer and good will toward all with whom he came in contact. Always an interesting lecturer and public speaker, he was much in demand. His associates admired and respected the sincere and fearless manner with which he entered into a discussion.

An alert mind, a broad and accurate knowledge of many subjects made his conversation crisp and interesting. His friends knew him as a modest and sincere idealist, who regarded truthfulness and honesty as unexcelled virtues. He never married, and in the absence of family cares, devoted his time and thoughts to the field of Earth Science, for which he will long be remembered.

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