

Washington. Paraphrased, his comment went something like "I'm glad to hear you've received the M.S.A. Award, Ernst. It's heartening confirmation of the fact that, with hard work, anyone can get it." Which, if I may say so, is an extremely fortunate state of affairs. In a real sense, then, this award belongs to the entire, industrious membership of the Society itself. Accordingly, I am delighted for the opportunity to express my appreciation to the M.S.A. Award Committee on behalf of all of us. Thank you.

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MEMORIAL OF BERTRAM THEODORE BUTLER

March 22, 1874–October 5, 1958

DANIEL T. O'CONNELL, *The City College of New York,*
New York, N. Y. 10031.

On Sunday evening, October 5, 1958, Professor Bertram T. Butler, former Head and Chairman of the Geology Department of the City College of New York, died in his home at 186 Crescent Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey. As was his custom, he had left his summer place in Jamaica, Vermont, to spend his winter in Clearwater, Florida. While stopping off for a few days at his home in Leonia, death overtook him at the age of 86.

Professor Butler was born in Nashua, Iowa, March 22, 1872, of French Huguenot ancestry. He survived his wife, Dora Elmer Butler, born April 22, 1871 in Butler, Montana. His only child, a daughter, Ellys, graduated from Mt. Holyoke College with an A.B. and M.A., and later received a Ph.D. in Botany at Columbia University. She is now Mrs. Roger P. Wodehouse and the proud mother of five children.

Professor Butler began his teaching career in a one-room country school in South Dakota. He went on to receive his Ph.B. at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota in 1901. He became a Science Instructor at Montana Wesleyan University, and later Superintendent of Schools of Glendive, Montana. He came east to continue his studies at Columbia University, where he was awarded an A.M. degree in Botany, in 1908. In that year, also, he was appointed Tutor of Botany in the Natural History Department of the College of the City of New York. Later he was assigned to assist the first Professor of Geology, Ivan Sickels.

Upon the retirement of the latter, Professor Butler became Head and later Chairman of the Department of Geology, a position he held from 1924 to 1942.

At the time of his retirement, the General Faculty of the City College



Bertram Theodore Butler

memorialized Professor Butler for his faithful and diligent service to the College. Under his direction the Department of Geology of the City College grew from a two man to a six man Department. Dr. Butler was above all a teacher and a large number of CCNY graduates went on to do graduate work in other schools. During his time the work of the College was restricted to the undergraduate program. In addition to his strictly academic activities in the College, he was for many years the faculty advisor of the College Geological Society and the Hiking Club. He can perhaps be best characterized by what he once said concerning geologists. "They are men humble in spirit, keen in perception, friendly with all men; looking at the world with a background of immensity of time, overlooking the smaller things in the greater fields of thought."

During his earlier career as a botanist, Professor Butler published several papers, among which was one on the *Trees and Shrubs of Montana* and one on the *Western American Birches*. His researches in geology dealt with the *Physiography of the Catskill Mountains* and the *Geomorphology of the Triassic Basin in New Jersey*, for which he was awarded the Ph.D. by New York University in 1933.

He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Paleontological Society of America, the Torrey Botanical Club, the Mineralogical Society of America, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He was President of the New York Mineralogical Club in 1936.

There has always been a question in the academic world as to the relative importance of teaching and research—which contributes most to society—the original investigator or the teacher who interprets and spreads the discoveries of others? Who can say? But neither can survive without the other. Professor Bertram T. Butler, although endowed with the talent for research, as his early botanical career made clear, preferred to use his energies in attracting young men to science, kindling the fires of interest which, once started, he left to others to tend and feed with advanced studies.

Professor Butler had another side. In addition to his interest in science, he was a musician and artist. A master of the organ he served as organist and choir master of the Leonia New Jersey Methodist Church for many years. His oil paintings won prizes in numerous art shows. He was an excellent photographer and lectured extensively before community groups in various parts of the country, popularizing the two fields in which he was well versed, geology and botany.

"A gentleman of the old school," he was a type all too rare in this competitive, rushing, work-a-day world of today.

Bibliography of Bertram T. Butler

- (1908) *The Trees and Shrubs of Montana*. Thesis, Dept. of Botany, Columbia University, New York, N. Y., 235 p.
- (1933) *Geomorphology of the Triassic Basin in New Jersey*. Ph.D. Thesis, New York University, New York, N. Y. 220 p.

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MEMORIAL OF HORACE JOHN FRASER

November 27, 1905–February 2, 1969

G. P. MITCHELL AND A. R. GRAHAM, *Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, Thornhill, Ontario.*

Horace John Fraser, President of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, and a member of the executive committees of nearly thirty other companies, institutions, and organizations, died suddenly on February 2, 1969, at his country home, Lost Herd Farm, near Palgrave, thirty miles north-west of Toronto, Ontario. At the culmination of four successful careers, as an outstanding earth-scientist, as a respected university professor, as an efficient government administrator, and as a top mining executive, he had contributed uniquely to the mineral industries of United States and Canada. His friends, associates, and organizations miss him sorely.

Dr. Fraser's great achievements stemmed from his concentrated application of a clear analytical mind, a retentive memory, tremendous energy, and a quietly forceful personality, to every task which he set himself. Combined with his integrity, and his abilities tersely to impart accurate information to others at any technical level, to make apt decisions, and most of all, to inspire in his associates loyalty and confidence, these qualities brought him the admiration, respect and affection of all with whom he worked. With Fraser, you soon knew where you stood, and might stand if you continued to work to your capacity. In his latest career, in the innumerable decisions required of him as a chief executive, his strict adherence to principle and his acumen gave his companies an enviable reputation, and a rapidly increasing rate of growth.

In 1905, at the prairie hamlet of Girvin, Saskatchewan, Horace John was born the eldest of three children of the pioneer family of Fred Brisbin Fraser and Jenny Macklin Fraser. Originally from the rich farm area near Coburg-Port Hope in Ontario, the Frasers combined thrift and industry with the Scottish respect for learning. Wise parents, they could