

Dr. Barlett was an ardent golfer and approached golf experimentally. Her vacations were spent preparing for the Michigan summer season of golf. For years, she was the influencing member of Flint's Zonta International. She took an active interest in the Flint Science Fair.

She was an outstanding woman scientist. A pleasant smile showed her warm personality and her love for others of her profession. She had the respect of all who had the opportunity to know her, they will miss her lovable presence.

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#### MEMORIAL OF OLIVER BOWLES

January 10, 1877-August 1, 1958

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When one of his sons first began struggling with the Linnean binomials in biology classes, Oliver Bowles told him about the way he had mem-

orized botanical names in his youth. While plowing the rocky fields of the northern Ontario farm where he was raised, he would identify weeds he turned under—"Daucus carota" (there went another Queen Anne's Lace!)—"Achillia millefolium" (and another yarrow bit the dust!). The story is not apocryphal; it typifies the perseverance and determination that carried Oliver Bowles from rural poverty in Penetanguishene, Ontario, to what must have seemed the unbelievable heights of a baccalaureate degree from the University of Toronto. And it was a struggle. The time for schooling had to be literally stolen from the demands of a marginal farm. The money that could be earned and saved in a year would barely permit another austere year of schooling.

Oliver Bowles, born January 10, 1877, was 30 when he finished his University undergraduate work in 1907. When he finally reached this primary goal, however, he was awarded the Governor General of Canada's gold medal for superior academic achievement. His Master of Arts degree was granted in 1908. Fourteen more years of part-time study and night classes were to elapse before he finally received his Ph.D. from the George Washington University in 1922. After a summer's field work in the Nipigon River wilds, he began teaching mineralogy at the University of Michigan. An attractive offer from the United States Bureau of Mines arrived during that year, but this was contingent on his obtaining United States citizenship. In the unhurried tempo of the second decade of the century, the job was held open for the five years he had to spend attaining his naturalized citizenship status. These years of teaching were spent in Ann Arbor (1908-1909) and the University of Minnesota (1909-1914).

Oliver Bowles moved to Washington and joined the staff of the Bureau of Mines on April 25, 1914. Thereafter, his entire professional career was spent in Washington, except for a period in 1923-1928 when he headed the Nonmetallic Mineral Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines at Rutgers University.

The nonmetallic minerals were his forte throughout his career. Joining the Bureau of Mines as a quarry technologist, promotions came steadily and his interests soon expanded to all aspects of the geology, technology, and economics of the nonmetallic minerals. His accomplishments reflect not only his technical competence, but, even more clearly, his character. To all who knew him, one of Oliver Bowles' outstanding characteristics was an inner serenity clearly revealed in his calm, yet cordial, manner. His methodical, conscientious, soundly reasoned, and above all, honest approach to every problem won him a respect rarely bestowed on anyone by his associates. In those fields to which he gave particular attention—such as asbestos, slate, building stone, and mica—he was recognized internationally as a prime authority. Being an exceptionally fluent and



*Oliver Bowles*

cogent writer, he was the author of hundreds of papers, reports, and bulletins on nonmetallic minerals. His book entitled *The Stone Industries* was a standard reference text in his lifetime.

Dr. Bowles was a charter member of the Mineralogical Society of America, and an honorary member of the British Institute of Quarrying. He was a member of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, The Society of Economic Geologists, The New York Academy of Sciences, The Society of Sigma Xi, and the Cosmos Club of Washington, holding many offices and consistently contributing to their programs and progress.

Dr. Bowles retired as Chief of the Nonmetal Economics Branch of the Bureau of Mines at 70 in 1947, after 33 years of service. In recognition of his accomplishments he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of the Department of the Interior. But it is typical of the man that he would not be put to pasture—for eleven more years he worked closely with the Bureau as a consultant, with the University of Maryland as a part-time Research Professor, and with industrial firms as a consultant. He worked at the Bureau on August 1, 1958, drove with his family to their summer home in Virginia, lay down for a nap before dinner, and passed away in his sleep. He died the way he had always lived—quietly, peacefully, and in the knowledge of a job well done, with no loose ends requiring someone else's attention.

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