Attachment G

IN MEMORIAM

DR. CLARENCE W. KREGER
PROVOST, MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, OHIO

So large a part of Clarence William Kreger's life was associated with Miami University that biographical details fuse into a tapestry of single-minded love and loyalty. At the time of his death at Mercy Hospital, Hamilton, on Saturday, November 19, 1960, Dr. Kreger was in the fortieth year of service to the University. Had he lived, he would have entered retirement in June, 1961.

Clarence Kreger was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on June 1, 1896. Early in his life his father, a businessman, moved the family to Cincinnati, where Clarence graduated in 1915 from Hughes High School.

In later years he delighted in telling how, with a group of friends so close-knit that all wanted to attend the same college, he flipped a coin to decide between Miami and Cincinnati. Clarence Kreger was a methodical man, no gambler, but Miami can consider itself blessed by the outcome of that one essay in high adventure.

Dr. Kreger was an active undergraduate. He was a campus editor, pageant promoter, prom committeeman, and cheerleader. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and was elected to Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalism fraternity, after serving as associate editor of the Recensio. Despite the handicap of a knee injury which had occurred at birth, he was active in intramural sports. His keen mind and unflagging drive permitted him to emerge from this flurry of extra-curricular activity without damage to his classroom performance. In 1919 he graduated with honors in chemistry and a Phi Beta Kappa key.

Not surprisingly, the young graduate was invited to remain at Miami and teach chemistry the following year. Then he departed for work at the University of Illinois and Ohio State University for a master's degree, which the former institution awarded him in 1922. That fall he returned to the campus to begin an unbroken association with Miami University.

In three years as assistant professor of chemistry at Miami and part-time study at Ohio State, Dr. Kreger earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The same year (1925) he was promoted to the rank of associate professor. He was made a full professor in 1937.

He was a sound, dedicated, exacting teacher. His standards approached perfectionism. He was a taskmaster who crowded many a sloppy student; in later life many came to regard him as the teacher who, above others, had instilled in them a sense of self-discipline.

During this period Dr. Kreger's interests turned more and more in the direction of administration. His industry, his orderly mind, and his insistence on standards fitted him admirably for the tasks that progressively were assigned to him. In 1930 he became assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In 1946 President Ernest Hahne, newly arrived at Miami, chose Dr. Kreger for his administrative assistant. Two years later the title was changed to Vice President in Charge of Academic Affairs. This function was more succinctly delineated by the title of Provost with which Dr. Kreger was invested in the Millett administration.

In the last 18 months of Dr. Hahne's illness Clarence Kreger was, in effect, Miami's acting president, a title which he later held from April 1 to July 1, 1953. On the latter date he welcomed Dr. Millett to the president's office with characteristic loyalty and entered into a fruitful association with his new chief.

Outside his official duties Dr. Kreger maintained his interest in chemistry, and in scholarship in general. He rendered extraordinary service to the accreditation processes of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. He had accepted an important assignment for North Central that would have been discharged in 1960 had he lived.

Dr. Kreger was interested in community affairs and served several times as consultant on sanitation problems to nearby local government units. He never relinquished his license as a sanitary engineer.

A devout man, Dr. Kreger was dedicated to his family. In 1923 he married Helen Zink, of Hillsboro, a Miami graduate of 1922. Dr. Kreger never let the rigors of academic or administrative life divert him from the role of companion to their twin sons, one of whom was to lose his life while serving as a Navy officer in the Korean War. Dr. and Mrs. Kreger made Cook Place a house of warm hospitality to fellow staff members, faculty, students, trustees, and friends of the University.

Scientist and rigorous enforcer of standards that he was, Clarence Kreger was a man of personal warmth. If he loosened a friendship now and then because he would let nothing stand in the way of acceptable performance of University tasks, he bound others with the iron of shared ideals and unswerving integrity. There was no conflict between these absolutes and Dr. Kreger's instinct for kindness and flair for humor.

Right he would not compromise. He was always firm, never obstinate. He loved Miami and wished nothing for her so much as that she would at all times live up to the best that was in her. Having done so much to help her do so, he linked his life with her life in a selfless identity.

Death cannot cut apart such interwoven destinies.

Death does deal cruel wounds. To Mrs. Kreger, to the surviving son who is carrying on a part of the family tradition in his work as a research physicist in California, to other relatives, and to close friends, the Board of Trustees of Miami University tender their deepest sympathy.