A MEMORIAL TO

HARVEY CLAYTON BRILL

Harvey Clayton Brill was born near West Elkton, Ohio, on December 29, 1881, and died in Oxford on January 11, 1972, at the age of ninety. His full and varied life is interwoven with the history of Miami University during the time when it was emerging from the status of a small provincial college to that of a large and prestigious university.

Harvey Brill's teaching career began in the elementary schools of West Elkton. He taught there for three years immediately following high school graduation, and saved enough money to continue his education. He entered Miami University in the Fall of 1904. At that time, the University had an enrollment of 325 students, some of whom were in the preparatory department, and a faculty of about twenty. In many ways, it was not too different from the New Miami which had re-opened only nineteen years before, in 1885. But, there were already stirrings of growth. The Miami Normal College, which later became the School of Education of Miami University, had been established two years earlier. More important to the career of Harvey Brill, two new wings were being added to the Brice Scientific Hall, greatly expanding its facilities for the study of chemistry. Just a year earlier, in 1903, the Chemistry Department had begun its existence as a separate department, with one full-time Professor of Chemistry, Raymond M. Hughes.

After his graduation from Miami in 1908, Harvey Brill entered the Graduate School of the University of Michigan. Here he continued his Miami tradition by selecting as his thesis adviser a young faculty member, William J. Hale, a Miami graduate of 1897, who had gone on to Harvard where he received the Ph. D. degree in 1902. William Hale was the first

Miami graduate to receive the Ph. D. degree in chemistry, and Harvey Brill, in 1911, was the second.

The careers of Harvey Brill and Raymond Hughes, under whom he had received most of his undergraduate training, continued to be closely associated. In 1911, Hughes, by that time Dean, extended an invitation to the new Ph. D. to return to his Alma Mater, and he accepted the invitation. After two years, Dr. Brill left Miami to enter the Bureau of Science of the Philippines, where he had four fruitful years of research and administration. In 1917, Hughes, who by that time was President of Miami University, persuaded him to fill a vacant position of Professor of Chemistry and Head of the Chemistry Department, until his retirement in 1952.

Although Harvey Brill was a consistent contributor to the chemical literature, with over forty publications of a scientific nature, he obtained greater satisfaction from his success in inspiring able students to select chemistry as a career. Among his outstanding students were Ernest Volwiler, later to be President of Abbott Laboratories in Chicago and President of the prestigious American Chemical Society, and Clarence Kreger, who returned to Miami to work in the Chemistry Department and in Administration for many years. Under Dr. Brill's leadership, Miami University achieved an outstanding record as a source of graduate students for the leading universities of the nation.

Harvey Brill contributed significantly not only to his University but also to the community. He served as Village Councilman, technical supervisor of the Oxford Disposal Plant, and trustee of the Oxford Memorial Presbyterian Church. He relished political discussions.

Dr. Brill was elected Fellow in the American Institute of Chemists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Ohio Academy of Science. He was an active member of many other organizations, including American Chemical Society, German Chemical Society,

Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Sigma Kappa, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Pi Gamma Mu, Mason, and Oxford Men's Club.

In 1964, the Harvey Clayton Brill Lectures in Chemistry were established in honor of Dr. Brill by colleagues and former students. The University's Chemistry Library and a Miami scholarship have been named in his honor. In 1959, he received the Eminent Chemist Award of the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society.

The life of Harvey Brill, with its uncompromising standards of honesty and fairness, dedication to duty, protection of the interests of the University and State, independence, and pride in a job well done, stands as a model for all who knew him.

When Harvey Brill came to Miami as a young instructor in 1911, he became acquainted with Gertrude Davidson, a charming art instructor in the Miami Normal School. Upon his departure for the Philippines two years later, he persuaded her to resign her position and accompany him as his bride. The voyage to the Philippines was their honeymoon. This was the romantic beginning of fifty-five years of happy married life before Mrs. Brill's death in 1968. One daughter, Elizabeth, a resident of Oxford, survives.

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