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A TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR HARCOURT A. MORGAN

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On a cold Sunday afternoon in January, 1912, two college students walked the mile from the campus of the University of Tennessee to the home of Dr. H. A. Morgan on the University Farm. The older of these students was specializing in agriculture; the younger in civil engineering. Both were freshmen and both were obviously country boys. The older boy wanted his friend to change his major interest to agriculture and had persuaded him to talk it over with Professor Morgan. Professor Morgan came to the door, greeted the boys with a friendly smile, and invited them into his home. I was the younger boy and this was my first time to meet Professor Morgan. His kindness and consideration of my desires impressed me as much as his firmness in insisting that a change of program could only be made provided I passed all of the courses that I was then taking. Such was my introduction to a really great man, a marvelous teacher, a splendid administrator, a true friend of boys and girls, a hard-hitting champion of the right as he saw it.

Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan was a Canadian, being born at Strathroy, Ontario, on a farm, August 31, 1867. As a child and young man, Harcourt helped with the chores and other farm work. He studied at the Ontario Agricultural College, graduating in 1889. Soon after graduation, he came to Louisiana and engaged in various agricultural activities, including teaching, carrying on research work, especially on the Texas fever tick and the boll weevil, acting as Director of the Gulf Biological Station, conducting farmers' institutes, and doing the work of a special agent for the United States Bureau of Entomology. He brought to all of these activities such energy and devotion of purpose as to attract the attention of the University of Tennessee.

In 1905, Dr. Morgan came to Tennessee as Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Professor of Zoology and Entomology, and Entomologist of the State of Tennessee. Later—in 1913—he became Dean of the College of Agriculture but did not entirely give up teaching. The presidency of the University of Tennessee became vacant in 1919, and Dr. Morgan was elected to this position by the Board of Trustees. He remained President

of the University until 1933 when he was granted a leave of absence and was later allowed to resign in order to serve as a Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority. He became Chairman of the Board of Directors of TVA in 1938 and retained this post for three years. After resigning as Chairman, he continued on the Board of Directors until his retirement in 1948.



Courtesy U. of T., Extension Service

While in Louisiana, Dr. Morgan met the charming Miss Sara Elizabeth Fay of Baton Rouge. They were married on June 25, 1895. There are four children, two boys and two girls.

Dr. Morgan was devoted to the improvement of life in the South. This explains his interest in the University of Tennessee, in the

Tennessee Valley Authority, and in the Tennessee Academy of Science. He dreamed of these organizations as contributing greatly to the well-being of southern people and especially rural folks. Through farmers' institutes, conventions, and other group meetings, he helped carry the idea of better agriculture and better living to farmers. Through his teaching of young men majoring in agriculture, he attempted to pass on the vision of the goal that agriculture might reach. Farmers and students alike learned to love this teacher.

When Dr. Morgan discovered in 1949 that he had an incurable disease, he gradually withdrew from his many activities, sold his library, and retired to the farm of his son, Dr. H. A. Morgan, Jr., at Belfast, Tennessee. Here the life that had been so active, so aggressive, and so full of accomplishment for agriculture went on for a time but at a slower pace. There were low rounded hills covered with blue grass and grazed by cattle. Ample fields of corn and wheat were nearby. A lovely home on a shaded hill overlooked the countryside. Everything testified to the better living and the better farming that Dr. Morgan had worked for. Spring had brought its miracles and summer followed with a bounteous harvest of wheat. Corn was "laid by" and a good yield seemed assured. Tobacco was tall and must soon be topped and later suckered. On the farm, much of the necessary work for producing the crops had been completed. The harvest yet remained.

Here, the master farmer, Harcourt A. Morgan, passed through the pasture gate and went, on August 25, 1950, to a better farm with the wisest and most skilled Overseer. Because he lived there were more lambs to sport in the fields, the wheat was sturdier and yielded more grain, corn and other crops were grown more successfully, and people lived happier and healthier lives. Such a man may well be called noble. And we who remain have been blessed by the touch of the hem of his garment.

NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

Dr. M. D. Peterson, Professor of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, has been appointed as representative of that institution on the Council of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

Dr. Robert T. Lagemann, Professor of Physics in Emory University, has been appointed as Chairman of the Department of Physics in Vanderbilt University, succeeding Dr. Francis G. Slack, who has retired from Vanderbilt. Dr. Slack came to Vanderbilt University in 1928 as associate professor, and became head of the department in 1939. In 1941 Dr. Slack was a member of the famous SAM group at Columbia University, and during this war period he was responsible for the development of the first successful diffusion barrier materials for isotopic separations, and was made director of one of the six research divisions of the laboratories.

In the summer of 1951, the state of Tennessee is represented in Oak Ridge by ten summer participants in the research programs of the laboratories, as follows: University of Tennessee, Knoxville; J. D. Maloney, R. L. Maxwell, Mechanical Engineering; H. F. Johnson, Chemical Engineering, University

(Continued on page 248)