

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
PAUL J. BEARD
(1896-1944)

On January 8, 1944, amid the peace and quiet of his own garden, a gallant soldier kept his final rendezvous with death—as calmly and courageously as he had fought for two decades against the handicap of World War injuries. Sustained in his uphill battle by sheer tenacity of will, he had persevered without complaint to create for himself a life of valuable activity. Two years ago, these hard-won gains were all but nullified by failure of the valiant heart which had carried him so far, but he met this latest challenge as he had those before it and, by carefully conserving his remaining strength, regained, at last, his place in the field he loved. Few men know, and none deserve more, the tranquility which this final victory brought to his last few weeks among us. Thus, with a strange mixture of pride and sorrow, we pay homage to the memory of our friend and colleague, Paul Jay Beard.

Mere biographical data concerning such a man would seem almost irrelevant. From his birth at Creston, Iowa, on July 29, 1896, until the spring of 1917, Paul Beard's life was that of a normal middle-western boy. Playing better than average football as a husky undergraduate at Ames, he was looking forward to Medical School when war was declared in April. In May he volunteered for the Medical Corps and by autumn was driving an ambulance in Italy. One night the following spring, an Austrian howitzer dropped a shell directly upon a road high in the Italian Alps; the blacked-out ambulance which it barely missed plunged into the crater and, although the driver escaped death, his spine was severely injured.

Some months later, after inadequate treatment in Italy, Paul Beard, a shadow of his former self, returned to the bride he had left to go overseas. Together, they set out resolutely to mend his shattered body and to complete his education. Surgery, rest, long confinement in plaster casts and, at last, months of recuperation in the Black Hills were accompanied by suffering which precluded any thought of study. But his was not a spirit to be downed and, although at first he could endure school only for short periods, Paul pushed on more and more continuously until he finally received the Bachelor's Degree in Bacteriology from Iowa State in 1926. Rapidly gaining strength, but still working under a strain which must have been nigh intolerable, he won his M.S. the next year, stayed on as an assistant until 1928 and then came to Stanford where, soon after his enrollment as a graduate student, he was made an Acting Instructor.

Upon completion of his work for the Ph.D. in 1929, Dr. Beard was appointed Assistant Professor of Sanitary Sciences at Stanford. At

the same time he accepted a part-time appointment as Assistant Professor of Bacteriology at San Jose State College, a connection which was never severed. Except for a sabbatical leave spent as a research associate at Cornell Medical School, he has been at Stanford ever since and, despite the cruel handicap under which he worked, his career here has been a happy one.

Deeply interested in research as well as teaching, he found time and energy to contribute much original work to the technical journals of bacteriology, medicine and sanitary engineering and to serve as a consultant on countless problems of water supply, food preservation and general sanitation. His work found recognition in promotions and in his election to membership in Sigma Xi, to various offices in the Society of American Bacteriologists and to the Presidency of the Pasteur Society of Northern California. But the recognition which gratified him the most was the obviously genuine affection of his students—to whose aid and encouragement he gave so lavishly of his ability and enthusiasm as a teacher. They will share with his colleagues the loss of a devoted friend of the whole Stanford Family.

Be it therefore resolved by the Academic Council of Stanford University that these lines be inscribed in the minutes of this meeting and that a transcript hereof be presented to Mrs. Beard as an expression of our sympathy.

Charles E. Clifton
Elliott G. Reid
Leon B. Reynolds, Chairman