

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FRANK E. BLAISDELL, SR.
(1862 - 1946)

Cooper Medical College and Stanford University lost a most distinguished and world renowned faculty member in the passing of Frank E. Blaisdell, Sr., who died at the age of eighty-four at the home of his son, Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell, Jr., in Watsonville, California, July 6, 1946.

Born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire, the son of Solon Greenfield and Anna Greely Blaisdell, Frank came west to be entomologist of San Diego County in 1886 but his desire to learn more of living structures especially in man lead him to enter Cooper Medical College, securing the M.D. degree in 1889. He immediately became demonstrator in anatomy and instructor in biology and embryology and histology, advancing to assistant professor of anatomy, 1904-05, associate professor of anatomy, 1907-10, and professor of surgery and director of the surgical laboratory from 1910 until his retirement in 1927. During World War I Frank Blaisdell was instructor in regional anatomy in the training school for Medical Officers, U.S. Army.

Dr. Blaisdell remained one of the full time professors, first in anatomy, then in surgery. He did not practice as a surgeon but devoted most of his life to the teaching of surgical anatomy, surgical pathology, research work with colleagues but mainly assisting and advising the senior students in performing their investigations and researches for their graduating theses. He never refused to help and frequently much of the work of the thesis, especially the photography, drawings or photomicrographs, was his handiwork. Even after his retirement his superb work in photography and drawing was sought after by colleagues and students but the authorities wisely forbade his continuing this generosity so he could devote his remaining years to his world renowned hobby, entomology.

Dr. Blaisdell was the best known authority on beetles, naming, classifying and illustrating by accurate and painstaking pencil drawings of all species. The beetles found in King Tut's tomb were all sent to Frank for study and recording in the specialty journals. This emeritus work was carried on for nearly ten years in the Lane Library, then he continued his studies at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. A tremor of his hands the last few years slowed up his work but Frank never stopped thinking or working until he died.

During his entire thirty-seven years of teaching, Frank Blaisdell shared with students and colleagues his comprehensive knowledge in anatomy, surgical anatomy and surgical pathology. He never was impatient and never refused a request. In a way he was happy when retirement came to him for he hoped that he could now do the many things, especially in entomology, which he had so frequently put aside to help in the work of others.

Dr. Blaisdell's last nineteen years after retirement were happy ones, during which he did the things that he loved to do in entomology, his first and his last love.