

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

KARL M. COWDERY (1895 - 1944)

On September 12, 1944, Stanford University suffered a great loss in the death of Karl Montague Cowdery from a rare blood disease.

Dr. Cowdery was born in Oberlin, Ohio, August 11, 1895. After his graduation from Oberlin College in 1915, he went to Whittier State School serving as research worker from 1915 to 1917. He returned there in 1919 to serve as Assistant Superintendent until 1922. He then came to Stanford University to receive his M.A. Degree in psychology in 1922, after which he again returned to Whittier for a year as Director of Education.

The break in his career at Whittier was caused by World War I in which he served as First Lieutenant in the Army Sanitary Corps as Psychological Examiner.

In 1923 he became Teaching Assistant in Psychology at Stanford. His career at Stanford, however, centered in the Registrar's office in which he served as Statistician from 1924 to 1925, in addition to being Acting Instructor in Education in the Summer quarter. He became Assistant Registrar in 1926, Associate Registrar in 1932, and in 1937 Associate Registrar and Academic Secretary.

In the current war he was representative of the Armed Forces on the campus, counseling students with regard to Army and Navy programs. In 1943, he became Regional Director of the Army-Navy qualifying tests for civilians.

Those associated with Dr. Cowdery will remember his statistical studies regarding admission of students to the University, his remarkably clear presentation of cases before the Admissions Committee and his personal counseling of students.

His was an unusual combination of abilities, possessing on the one hand strict, unrelenting enforcement of the rules and regulations of the University, and, on the other hand, a personal interest and sympathy for the individual student, a combination which, on a basis of facts and not of personal opinion or bias, resulted in a constructive program for the student in harmony with the educational standards of the University.

A member of both Phi Beta Kappa and of Sigma Xi, Dr. Cowdery was especially active in the furthering of scholarship at Stanford through the medium of these societies. He also ably represented the University in his active participation in both local and national societies concerned with guidance and university personnel.

He freely gave of his time to the Boy Scouts, and in the First Congregational Church he was a member of the choir for many years. He was also formerly a member of the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto.

Dr. Cowdery is survived by his mother and father, Professor and Mrs. Kirk L. Cowdery of Oberlin, Ohio, a brother, Lawrence of Syracuse, New York, and by his two children Richard and Dorothy, their mother Edythe Graves Cowdery having died in 1933.

Stanford University mourns the passing of one of its members whose devotion to his duties has been so keenly felt and appreciated by both faculty and student throughout his years of service. Be it therefore resolved that this memorial be entered in the minutes of the Academic Council and that a copy be sent to members of his family.

John W. Bunn
Raymond D. Harriman, Chairman
Edward K. Strong, Jr.