

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### BENJAMIN OLIVER FOSTER

The Academic Council of Stanford University notes with deep regret the death on the twenty-second of June, nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, of Benjamin Oliver Foster, Professor Emeritus of Classics. At the time of his retirement in 1937 he had been an active member of the Stanford Faculty for thirty-six years. After receiving the doctorate from Harvard University in 1899 he became Acting Professor of Latin and Greek at the State Normal College of Michigan and two years later was called from there to the Department of Latin at Stanford University. During the last years of His active service he was executive head of the Department of Classics. Shortly after his retirement he was forced because of ill health to resign from the honor bestowed upon him by the University of California in selecting him as the Sather Memorial Lecturer in Classical Literature for 1937-38.

His acquaintance with the University and its problems antedated his many years on the Stanford Faculty. He came to Stanford as a student in 1892, and in 1895 he received our degree of Bachelor of Arts. The record of his long continued service as a member of numerous committees) both academic and administrative, bears witness to the esteem in which his services were held by both the Academic Council and by the Administration.

As a teacher of the Classics, Dr. Foster has made an indelible imprint upon the scholarly life of countless students both of Classics and of other disciplines. They will long remember the kindly, intimate acquaintance developed both within and without the classroom with this scholar, this friend, this man.

It was characteristic of Dr. Foster that he did not treat humanistic scholarship as a final end, but as a method to be pursued in achievement of controlled taste, developed understanding and wise judgment. An unshakable modesty, a rich vein of quiet humor, and a constant sense of propriety, were always evident in both the scholar and the man. In his rare though fine contributions to classical publications in the five volumes of his beautifully polished translation of the Roman historian Livy, in the gently learned way of his teaching, he showed the mature character and the dignified charm which we are sure he regarded as the ultimate purpose of classical discipline.

The Academic Council, therefore, in recognition of the great loss gives expression to its sorrow in this tribute to a colleague who won the affection and the respect of all who knew him.

Be it resolved that these resolutions be spread upon the Minutes of the Academic Council and that a copy be forwarded to the family of Dr. Foster.

A. C. Whitaker  
Raymond D. Harriman  
J. Pearce Mitchell