

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### EDWARD CURTIS FRANKLIN (1862 – 1937)

Edward Curtis Franklin, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, who died on February thirteenth, was born on March first, 1862, at Geary, Kansas. He spent his boyhood there, entering the State University at the age of twenty-two and graduating in chemistry in 1888. After studying at the University of Berlin from 1890-91, he returned to his Alma Mater where he was assistant in chemistry from 1888-93. In the latter year he became a graduate student at Johns Hopkins, receiving his doctorate in chemistry in 1894. He then returned to the University of Kansas as associate professor of chemistry, where, except for a year spent as chemist and associate manager of a mining project in Costa Rica, he remained until called to Stanford in 1903. He served as Chief of the Division of Chemistry of the Public Health Service in Washington from 1911-13, after which he resumed his duties at Stanford.

Franklin was an exceptional teacher. He always made careful preparations in order to select the appropriate experimental demonstrations and to present his subject clearly. In this he reflected the influence of his great teacher, von Hofmann, an early exponent of the lecture-demonstration method in chemistry. Franklin was at his best in this form of teaching and his choice of apt illustration and his unusual dexterity impressed all. These rare attributes had a direct bearing upon researches, in which his native resourcefulness and ingenuity found free play in devising unusual methods for complicated experiments with a difficult medium.

His investigations dealt chiefly with ammonia and related compounds. They led to the synthesis of new compounds and to new concepts in regard to the structure of many nitrogenous substances. These outstanding contributions laid foundations in an entirely new field and assured him a place among the pioneers and masters of chemistry.

Honors came to him from at home and abroad. Notable among these were the award of several honorary degrees and of the Nichols and Willard Gibbs medals; election to the presidency of the American Chemical Society and to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society; and his appointment as honorary guest of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at its meetings at Melbourne, Australia, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Franklin loved the out-of-doors and spent many summers in excursions into remote regions. His enthusiasm for mountain climbing took him to the summits of the highest peaks in the West. He was a resourceful leader and a congenial companion who was at home on the frontier and for whom the best of the climb always began where the trail ended.

His was a life of scientific adventure, of enduring love of nature and of lasting friendships, crowned by a surpassing record in both teaching and research. He continued his labors after his retirement, maintaining contacts which for over a third of a century inspired and

helped both students and colleagues. Admired and beloved, his declining years found him, endowed with high honors and possessed of the most enduring satisfactions of life.

As colleagues and friends, we here record our fullest appreciation of his life and greatly deplore that its fruitful days were numbered. Be it therefore resolved that these words be entered upon our minutes and that a copy thereof be transmitted to the family of the deceased and to the Board of Trustees of the University.