

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

GEORGE HEMPL (d. 1921)

George Hempl, A. M., Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Germanic Philology in this University since 1906, died on Sunday, August 14, 1921. During years of slowly failing health he had struggled to carry his scholarly work to such a degree of completion as would establish his ideas and permit further work in the fields of linguistic study which he had opened. He came to Stanford a ripe scholar, established in reputation, master of a most unusual technique in linguistic study, thoroughly tested in the fields of English and Germanic philology. Thereafter his studies led him to conclusions as to baffling inscriptions in ancient Mediterranean tongues from which he inferred relationships among these peoples not hitherto suspected, still less believed. Eager as he always was to extend his studies, he deferred publishing the complete evidence of his conclusions, contenting himself, for the most part, with announcing his results, to the surprised incredulity of his colleagues in linguistic research.

As teacher and executive Hempl was the stimulating, devoted scholar, no less strict with himself than with others in the pursuit of the ideals which he advocated. In his family and social relations he was affectionate, unselfish, and kind; and this expression, by his colleagues, of their high regard for his scholarly attainments, becomes also an expression of our affection for him as a man. In his life, and in his death, which took place in sleep, he gave cause for admiration and envy.