

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **ARTHUR WILLIAM MEYER**

**(1873 – 1966)**

With the death of Arthur William Meyer, professor emeritus of anatomy, on January 18, 1966, Stanford University lost its first full-time appointee to the faculty of the School of Medicine. In 1909 President Jordan appointed Dr. Meyer Professor of Anatomy, and he served in this capacity and as executive head of the Department until his retirement in 1938. He was promised a new laboratory at the time of his appointment, but instead space was made available in the wing of the museum broken off by the quake of 1906. This was not the most desirable locale for departmental activities, particularly without facilities for heating. But the improvisation took root, improvements were made through the help of Dr. Barkan and others, and the Department was strengthened by appointees carefully selected by Dr. Meyer.

Dr. Meyer had the loyalty and respect of his students once they learned that remarks such as "you butcher" were really intended as a spur to better dissections. He impressed on the students that "all that is written in medical texts is not gospel." A typical student reaction was "I always enjoyed the twinkle in his eyes as he was developing a point in his discussions. He was my idea of what a real teacher should be."

He was a scholar in the true sense of the word. After having studied all sides of a problem he would draw a conclusion to which he would adhere unless convincing evidence for another viewpoint was presented later.

Arthur William Meyer was born August 18, 1873, near Cedarburg, Wisconsin, attended local schools, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1898. After a period of teaching, he entered the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, from which he received the M.D. degree in 1905. He taught for two years at Johns Hopkins and for one year each at the University of Minnesota and Northwestern University before coming to Stanford. He was the author of "An Analysis of the Exercitationes de Generatione Animalium of William Harvey," 1936, of the "Rise of Embryology," 1939, and of many articles dealing with anatomy and embryology. He was a member of and an active participant in the activities of a number of scientific societies. The Stanford Anatomy Museum, thanks to his efforts, possesses one of the most nearly complete collections of human bones, both normal and pathological, available for study.

Dr. Meyer loved the out-of-doors and maintained a lifelong interest in hiking and pack trips in the mountains. His extra-curricular activities were not confined to self and home; his mind was alert as well to the problems of the day. He took advantage of the "Letters to the Editor" columns of local newspapers to express his views on civic and political matters, and he was interested in community affairs.

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Esther Robinson Meyer, a graduate of Goucher College in 1900. She was a student at The Johns Hopkins Medical School when they met. Also surviving are a daughter, Ruth, a son, Robert, and three grandchildren, Anne, Katharine, and Timothy. To them we of the Academic Council extend sympathy.

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