

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### GEORGE DANIEL SHAFER (1874 – 1962)

George Daniel Shafer was born in Muncie, Indiana on December 25, 1874. His early interest in biological sciences was manifested by his study of science in high school at Elwood and at Muncie, Indiana and his later specialization in zoology at the Normal School in Muncie. Professor Shafer obtained his A.B. degree in 1900 from the University of Indiana. His first association with Stanford began in 1905 when he came here as a Master's degree candidate in Entomology. He was attracted to Stanford through his friendship with Professor J. R. Slonaker and his admiration of David Starr Jordan and Vernon Kellogg. After rescuing his slides and a microscope from the biology building the day after the 1906 earthquake, he completed his research at the home of Professor Slonaker; the A.M. was awarded in 1907. A fellowship for graduate study at Cornell took him away from Stanford in 1908; he was awarded the Ph.D. from Cornell in Entomology in 1908. His first professional appointment was that of Assistant Entomologist at the Michigan State College Experimental Station in 1908. He was Research Associate at the same institution from 1913 to 1917 and in 1918 was appointed Instructor in Physiology at Stanford.

Professor Shafer's devotion and dedication to teaching were the outstanding features of his work at Stanford. His successful communication of both the substance of and the enthusiasm for science to beginning students was responsible for starting many of them on scientific or medical careers of their own. It is notable that his research, although moderate in bulk, covered an unusually broad segment of biology. His earliest work was in the field of entomology, continued through sense organ physiology of insects and later to the study of mammalian muscle and the effects of calcium on the regulation of heart rate in mammals.

Following his retirement in 1940, he returned to his earlier scientific interests; his work with bees and wasps culminated in the publication of a scientific paper on excretion in the mud-dauber wasp. In 1949 the Stanford Press published his small, charming book for lay readers; it presented a skillful weaving of philosophy, nature study and science under the title The Way of a Mud-Dauber.

Ill health, made worse by the chill and dampness of Palo Alto winters, required Professor Shafer to spend these seasons in the deserts of the southwest. It was quite in character that he kept busy during these visits. He and Mrs. Shafer spent many Winters visiting the Indian Missions of the southwest where he made hundreds of friends among the members of the Yaqui, Pima and Navaho tribes.

Professor Shafer died at Pilgrim Haven, Los Altos, on December 15, 1962 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, Grace H. Shafer of Los Altos, his sisters, Mrs. Lena Dolding and Mrs. Bessie Oren and by a brother, Robie W. Shafer, all of Muncie, Indiana. To them, we of the Academic Council extend our deepest sympathy.

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