

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **WILLIAM HENRY SLOAN (1877 – 1950)**

Professor William Henry Sloan was born in Mayfield, California, on June 23, 1877. As a youth he attended the local schools and with his brothers worked on his father's seed farm located in the area that now is North Palo Alto. The family attended the Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, which also was attended by Senator and Mrs. Stanford, and all were much interested in the new University. An older brother received his A.B. degree from Stanford in 1895, and William Henry, after seeing an enlistment with the United States Army in the Philippines during the Philippine Insurrection, entered Stanford and received the A.B. degree in Chemistry in 1903 and the M. A. degree in 1904.

On November 24, 1903, Professor Sloan and Myrtle Vandervoort of Palo Alto were married. They spent the following year in Germany where Professor Sloan studied in Oswald's laboratory in Leipzig. On their return from Europe, Professor Sloan became Chemist for the Board of Health in San Francisco. In 1906 he returned to Stanford as instructor in Analytical Chemistry and continued to teach this subject until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1942.

During these years all of the students majoring in chemistry or taking the premedical course at Stanford came under his direct supervision. He realized that many thought of him as a taskmaster, but nothing pleased him more than the large number of former students who returned to thank him for the fundamental training in accurate laboratory work that they had received under his guidance.

Professor Sloan was impressed by the fact that students frequently matured rapidly during their first year of graduate work. Accordingly in 1943 he established the David L. and Lavinia E. Sloan Memorial Scholarship primarily for students in this group.

The colleagues of Professor Sloan remember his pride and interest in the welfare and growth of the Department of Chemistry. He was concerned particularly with the advancement of the technical staff and of the younger members of the teaching staff. For many years he was in charge of the administration of the department library and of the laboratories, and made a particular effort to supply adequate research equipment and working space for the staff. As the department expanded, more research laboratories were needed, and much of the remodeling of the Chemistry Building was done under his supervision. Professor Sloan was a sound businessman as well as a chemist, and the department profited by his judgment. Following his retirement, Professor Sloan took a more active interest in local civic affairs and was a member of the Palo Alto Planning Commission until ill health forced his resignation.

After several months of acute illness, Professor Sloan died on June 24, 1950. His death was a distinct loss to his colleagues, whose long association with him had resulted in a true appreciation of the fine quality of his character. His place is assured among those rare personalities responsible for the growth of the University.

Carl R. Noller, Chairman  
David L. Bassett  
Richard A. Ogg, Jr.