

Obituaries

HARVEY BASSLER

Harvey Bassler was a son of Captain John and Amanda Mosser Bassler of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, where he was born on April 21, 1883. He was educated at Myerstown High School and at Albright College, where he received a B.S. in 1903. Thence he proceeded to Lehigh University, where he took the degree of E.M. in 1908. For two years he was professor of biology at Albright, from which he was drawn to work in the West for the United States Geological Survey, and later for the Maryland Geological Survey. In 1913 he took a Ph.D. in geology at Johns Hopkins. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey sent him to prospect for oil in South America, and there, particularly in Peru and the Amazon Valley, he made a name for himself, not only as a geologist, but as a student of anthropology and history as well. He gathered and presented to the Natural History Museum of New York City a considerable biological collection, and was appointed a research associate in herpetology. His collection of books relating to South America was reputed to be the largest in private hands. He had a way of acquiring and discussing books in ton lots, and yet he had the bibliographical patience to compile a survey of Mexican scientific periodicals. Among his other activities was the financing of a series of works on ethnology printed in Spanish and German. His envious friends used to remark that only a bachelor of ample means could afford such wide activities.

Dr. Bassler returned to Myerstown in 1931 and, except for a trip to South America to expedite the gathering of rubber during the second World War, he spent most of the rest of his life there. He was a member of numerous foreign learned societies, and he received honorary degrees from Lehigh and Albright. His bibliographical work brought him to the attention of this Society, to which he was elected in 1932. He took great pleasure in completing our files of the publications of Pennsylvania historical societies, and we were in a position to further his last great enthusiasm, the collection of Pennsylvania-German publications. He bought his first book in this field in 1945, but within five years he had built up what is possibly the largest collection of such material. By the purchase of the Unger collection he added forty-five tons of books in one lot. This collection he deposited at the Franklin and Marshall College library until such a time as the Pennsylvania German Society, of which he was a director, could raise funds for a building to house it. It was while bringing a station wagon full of books on March 14, 1950, that he and his friend Rudolf Hommel were killed in a traffic accident near Downingtown, Pennsylvania. It has been announced that his library of South American material goes to Lehigh University. C. K. S.

ROBERT DIGGES WIMBERLY CONNOR

Dr. Connor, who was elected to this Society in 1919, died of a brain hemorrhage on February 25, 1950. He was born at Wilson, North Carolina, on September 26, 1878, a son of Henry Groves and Kate (Whitfield) Connor, and was graduated Ph.B. at the University of North Carolina in 1899. On December 23, 1902, he married Sadie Hanes. For several years he was a teacher and principal in the

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