

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

EDWIN CHAPIN STARKS (b. 1867)

Edwin Chapin Starks was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, January 25, 1867. In the fall of 1893 he entered Stanford University as a student with the definite purpose of becoming a zoologist. He quickly won a prominent place in the group of students under the guidance of Professor C. H. Gilbert and President David Starr Jordan, and his growth was rapid and steady. In the winter of 1894 he accompanied Dr. Jordan on a collecting expedition to Mazatlan; in 1895 he was a member of the Hopkins Expedition to Panama, and in the same year shared in the first systematic dredging exploration of Puget Sound. From 1897 to 1899, he acted as Assistant in the field work of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, following which he served for two years, 1899 to 1901, as Curator of the Museum and Assistant Professor of Zoology in the University of Washington. In 1901 he returned to Stanford as Curator in Zoology, was made Assistant Professor in 1927, in which last capacity he served the University until he became emeritus in 1932.

Professor Starks enjoyed the rare privilege of sharing in the Harriman Expedition to Alaska in 1899, was a member of the Stanford Expedition to Brazil in 1911 and took part in several other scientific expeditions, some undertaken by the Department of Zoology and some upon his own initiative. Two trips to Europe for study in museums and at the Zoological Station at Naples broadened his acquaintance with fellow workers and with European collections in his chosen field. His scientific publications number more than eighty, nearly a third of them devoted to the Osteology of Fishes, in which subject he became an outstanding authority, the others dealing mainly with systematic and distributional problems.

Apart from his scientific work, Professor Starks' interests were many and varied. He was the author of three volumes of travel reminiscences, each of which, a model of fine printing, was his own handiwork as well as his own composition. His carefully selected general library and his collection of curios, equally careful in selection and personally gathered from all over the world, are evidences of a taste for literature and a taste for adventurous travel neither of which was weakened by his scientific absorption.

As a teacher he was exceptionally gifted. His broad sympathy with students, his patience and clarity in exposition, his contagious enthusiasm, and his kindly humor won the affection and admiration of all his pupils. As a colleague he held a high place in the estimation of all those who knew him. His modest, retiring disposition led him to shun publicity, but his constant and generous hospitality within his own home drew around him a group small but unusually devoted.

To the members of his family, Mrs. Chloe Lesley Starks, recently retired from our number as Associate Professor of Graphic Arts Emeritus, and his daughter, Dr. Dorothy J. Starks, a member of the medical faculty of Stanford University, the Council desires to express its sympathy and its deep sense of personal loss.

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