CHARLES FLINN ARWOOD

Charles Flinn Arwood was born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, on November 9, 1887, and died in Austin, Texas, on February 6, 1951. During that space of time, the last twenty-three years of which he labored at the University of Texas, Professor Arwood achieved eminent distinction as a scholar, an author, and a teacher. On February 6, 1951, the Texas House of Representatives, then in session, passed a resolution and adjourned "in memory of one of Texas' most beloved educators, Doctor Charles Flinn Arwood."

Professor Arwood was the son of Rev. Robert Sylvanus and Mary Louise (Dickson) Arwood. In 1914 Charles F. Arwood married Flora Kathleen Register with whom he lived in happy companionship and many mutual interests until his death. Much of Dr. Arwood's success must be attributed to his wife, Flora Kathleen.

Professor Arwood's philosophy of life and contributions to the field of education reflect in large degree his earlier training and experience. He was graduated in turn from Davison (M.C.) College, 1909, A.B.; Union Theological Seminary, 1915, B.D.; Rice Institute, 1918, A.B., and 1921, A.M.; University of Chicago, 1926, Ph.D.; Davison College, 1941, D. Litt. (Honorary).

Dr. Arwood began his teaching career as a high school instructor at Hemp, North Carolina, in 1909. He was Principal of Schools in St. Paula, North Carolina, 1910-1911; Fellow in Education, Rice Institute, 1918-20; Professor of Philosophy, S. W. Presbyterian University of Tennessee, 1920-23; Assistant in Philosophy, University of Chicago, 1923-24; Instructor in Education, Rice Institute, 1924-26, and Assistant Professor, 1926-28. Dr. Arwood became Professor of the History and Philosophy of Education at the University of Texas in 1920; member of the Graduate Faculty in 1934, and Chairman of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Education in 1945. Dr. Arwood also served as visiting professor in the summer sessions of numerous other higher educational institutions. Professor Arwood was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1915, and was pastor in various Texas churches from 1915-20. He resigned from the ministry in 1930.

Professor Arwood rendered full service to his profession. In the College of Education he was recognized by his colleagues as one of the most devoted, industrious, and capable members of the College of Education Staff in studying and carrying on the activities of the College. During his period of service he served as member or chairman of many School, College, and Departmental Committees and participated generously in all College activities. Among the most outstanding of these services were: (1) his wholehearted work in the study and reorganization of the professional preparation of high school teachers, in cooperation with the Commission on Teacher Education of the American Council on Education; and (2) his chairmanship of the Committee which recommended the administrative reorganization of the College of Education largely in its present form. In both of these services, his contribution was fundamental. Parallel to these services was his active interest in the student life of the entire University. For many years he was Chairman of the Committee on Student Government.

Dr. Arwood was active in professional educational societies both state and national. He was Chairman of the Committee and contributing author in the preparation of the Twenty-Fifth Yearbook of the National Society of College Teachers of Education, 1937.

In his services to the Graduate School, Dr. Arwood was equally zealous. He served for six years, 1939 to 1945, as a member of the Graduate Council, in which he helped to build high standards for the Graduate School. In 1945-1947 he was a member of the Research Council which recommended research grants to members of the faculty of the University. In 1947-1949 he was a member of the Graduate School Committee on Fellowships and Scholarships.
Professor Arrowood was a prolific but painstaking writer. His writings reflect a high degree of scholarship and a fine sense of values. He was author of the following books: "Thomas Jefferson and Education in a Republic," 1930; "Development of Modern Education, with F. Eby," 1934; "History and Philosophy of Education, Ancient and Medieval, with F. Eby," 1940; "Theory of Education in Political Philosophy of Adam Smith," 1945; "George Buchanan on the Powers of the Crown in Scotland," 1948.


Dr. Arrowood participated generously in the activities of the various clubs and organizations of which he was a member. Chief among these were the University Club, Schola, Masonic Lodge, Presbyterian Church, National Society of College Teachers of Education, Texas State Teachers Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Sigma. He was a United States delegate to the Fourth International Conference in Education held in Geneva in 1935.

Late in life, Professor Arrowood developed a deep recreational interest in fishing. This new field of endeavor he attacked with the same vigor and enthusiasm which characterized his scholarly attainments. He gradually took on all of the skills and traits of the proverbial Ike Walton and whether alone or as a delightful companion, it is doubtful if any of the thousands who frequented the nearby lakes and streams fished with greater patience or more wholehearted enjoyment than he.

Professor Arrowood was an ever-ready conversationalist and raconteur. One of the most familiar campus sights was Dr. Arrowood, ostentatiously after his mail, ardently engaged in conversation with one of his colleagues in front of the Main Building Post Office. Whether it were philosophy, education, religion, campus news, student conference, or fishing, conversation never dragged in the presence of Dr. Arrowood. He had a keen sense of humor and a marvelous fund of pertinent anecdotes which reflected his keen but joyous view of life.

Professor Arrowood was greatly admired by all of his students because of his scholarly teaching and intellectual integrity, and was held in deep affection by his major graduate students because of his sympathetic leadership. He felt a deep personal responsibility for his graduate students, and although a firm supervisor "with an amazing ability for detail and an eagle eye for error," he was exceedingly generous of his time and consideration in behalf of their personal welfare. No day was too busy for him to take ample time to share his theory of education and philosophy of life in friendly conference with his students. On their part, he expected a full measure of work and in return he gave his dearest interest and personal affection. Approximately eighty Master's Theses and twelve Doctoral Dissertations were completed under his supervision.

Among his colleagues, Dr. Arrowood was highly respected for his moral integrity, his fruitful scholarship, and his devotion to his department and his profession. Among his neighbors, he was loved as a steady friend, a cheerful, sociable, a good husband, and a responsive neighbor. His home was ever open to frequent visits of students, friends, and neighbors. All who came in close contact with Professor Arrowood were deeply impressed by his deep Christian spirit and integrity of character. A man of deep religious convictions which was sincerely reflected in his everyday activities, Dr. Arrowood was exceptionally tolerant of other points of view. "Truly a man of character; of
his personal qualities, outstanding were genuine friendliness, hospitality, generosity, and loyalty both individual and social. "Characterized by steady graciousness and unfailing consideration of those around him." Such are the comments of those who knew him best.

Saddened by his passing but strengthened by his virtues, his students and colleagues join whole-heartedly in perpetuating the principles of education and the good life that "Arry" so devotedly labored for and extensively contributed to. Thus may we carry on together with and for him.

A. P. Brogan
Frederick Eby
B. F. Pittenger
E. G. Smith
Fred C. Iyer, Chairman

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I.W.C., Manager