IN MEMORIAM

HENRY MATTHEW BURLAGE

When Dr. Henry Matthew Burlage accepted the appointment, effective in September, 1947, as Professor of Pharmacy and Dean of the College of Pharmacy, he did so knowing the challenging nature of the task he was undertaking. Although the college had been located on the campus of the University in Austin for some twenty years since its move from Galveston, it had yet to occupy quarters of its own, its offices, laboratories and classrooms having been dispersed through several buildings on the campus.

Such undesirable physical facilities, coupled with abnormally low faculty salary and equipment budgets, had made the recruitment and retention of young qualified faculty persons extremely difficult for the retiring Dean Gidley. With rapidly increasing undergraduate enrollment demanding heavy teaching loads and with no program of graduate instruction and hence no teaching assistants or other graduate student assistance, laboratory research and publications by the faculty were virtually non-existant.

Burlage stipulated six administrative commitments as conditions of his acceptance:

The question of a building for the college be resolved quickly.
Staff be immediately increased to a number commensurate with enrollment.
An M.S. and Ph.D. program be established.
Undergraduate enrollment be limited to available facilities and graduate job opportunities.
The dispensary be enlarged and improved.

The University administration assist the proposed new faculty members in securing housing in Austin.

President Painter agreed to the first five stipulations; the sixth was beyond his jurisdiction.

The honors and accolades accorded Dean Burlage at the time of his retirement from the Deanship and again when he retired from full-time teaching, attest to his success in overcoming many of the frustrating difficulties apparent at the beginning of his administrative term. The five conditions mentioned above were fulfilled during the first decade; full accreditation was received and maintained; and the College gradually became known as one of the few best Colleges of Pharmacy in the South and certainly among the top ten in the nation.

Henry Matthew Burlage was born on May 23, 1897, in Rensselaer, Indiana, but he grew up in the small village of Earl Park, Indiana, graduating from the local high school in 1915, as a member of a class of six graduates. Although his parents had little education, his mother stimulated and encouraged Henry's ambition to attend College. He worked his way through Indiana University, during his last year serving as an assistant and tutor in chemistry, and graduated with an A.B. degree in chemistry in 1919, having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

During 1919-1921, Burlage pursued his studies in chemistry at Harvard University, serving as a teaching fellow and graduate assistant in industrial chemistry. He received the Master of Arts degree in chemistry from Harvard
in 1921, but financial difficulties forced him to interrupt his academic career. He accepted employment in the laboratory of Charles B. Jordan, dean of the College of Pharmacy at Purdue University, where he did routine clinical laboratory testing for the TOTC Department and was introduced to the mysteries of filling student prescriptions for the Student Health Service by Professor William F. Gidley, whom he later succeeded as Dean at the University of Texas. Developing a growing interest in pharmacy and the chemistry of drugs, he earned the Ph.G. degree and then the newly offered B.S. degree in pharmacy in 1924. He then accepted appointment as instructor in pharmacy at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he pursued the Ph.D. degree in pharmacy under the direction of Dr. E.V. Lynn. After receiving this degree in 1928, Burlage became associate professor of drug analysis at Oregon State College and inspector for the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy.

During the course of his studies in Seattle, Burlage married Alleda Virginia Robb in 1925. A skilled botanical illustrator, she has illustrated many scientific publications and shared her husband's interest in ecology and natural history.

After serving as an associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at Purdue University for two years, 1929-1931, Burlage was appointed to a full professorship at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

During the sixteen years he spent at North Carolina, Burlage devoted much time and effort in an attempt to build up research and the graduate degree program. His feeling that administrative support of these efforts
was far from adequate contributed to his decision to move to the University of Texas when the deanship became available.

Dean Burlage served as Dean from 1947 until 1962 and continued to serve as Professor of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry until 1970. During his administration, in addition to bringing his initial stipulations to fruition, the Dean initiated the formation of the Pharmaceutical Foundation, the Pharmacy Extension Service, the Visiting Lecture Series and the Texas Journal of Pharmacy.

Among the many honors he received during his active career were the award of an Honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1961 from Purdue University and the Honorary Presidency of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He served as President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the National President of Rho Chi Honorary Society and Treasurer of the Texas Pharmaceutical Association, as well as Chairman and member of many national and state professional committees. He was listed in "American Men of Science" and "Who's Who in America", as well as several other biographical listings, and was a member of a large number of professional and honorary societies, including American Pharmaceutical Association, American Chemical Society, American Association for Advancement of Science, Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, Rho Chi, Kappa Psi and Alpha Chi Sigma. He was a Knight Templar, Masonic Lodge.

An excerpt from the citation delivered by Dean G.L. Jenkins of the School of Pharmacy, Purdue University, at the time Dean Burlage received
his honorary degree, reads as follows:

Dean Burlage's contributions to the advancement of education, especially in the pharmaceutical sciences, have been many and varied, and are mirrored in his success as a scientist, and as an educational administrator. He has held high offices in the professional organizations of pharmacy, most recently having been elected President of the American Association of the Colleges of Pharmacy in 1960. In addition to his eminence as an educator, Dean Burlage is a well recognized scientist. He is the author of more than one hundred books and papers pertaining to pharmaceutical science and education. Mr. President, because of his accomplishments in science and education, Henry Matthew Burlage is presented for the award of academic honors by Purdue University.

At the Appreciation Dinner on the occasion of Dean Burlage's retirement from the office of Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Joseph R. Smiley, President of the University of Texas at Austin, remarked in part:

He has brought not only the expected high levels of scientific and professional achievement to his position, but a generous measure of common sense and genuine human warmth. It would be a gross understatement, as you, his friends and former students, know, merely to say that he has been popular and widely admired. I am convinced that Dean Burlage has substantially advanced the cause and the profession of Pharmacy throughout the state and, indeed, because of his service on national boards and committees and his recent tenure as President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, on the national scene as well. The profession of Pharmacy is becoming infinitely more exacting and more complex as dramatic new advances and discoveries are made. These new directions and new areas of learning have taken their place in the pharmacy curriculum. Dean Burlage has been, as his selection to high national offices demonstrates, in the forefront of shaping these changes and adapting them to existing courses and degree requirements in our own College.

Although Dr. Burlage retired as Professor emeritus in 1971, he continued active and interested and produced two major publications during the last years of his life: "The Four Walls of Pharmacy", written with his son, Robb,
and "Pharmacy's Foundation in Texas", a history of the College of Pharmacy written with Margot E. Beutler.

Dean Burlage died at his home in Austin, October 6, 1978, survived by his wife, Alleda, and his son, Robb, esteemed and respected by the faculty, students and alumni of the College of Pharmacy, and by pharmacists throughout the state and the nation.

Lorene L. Rogers
President of The University of Texas at Austin

Bill D. Francis
Secretary of the General Faculty

This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Dr. Lee Worrell, Chairman, Dr. William Sheffield, and Dr. Esther Hall.
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