

Benjamin Percy Young

February 27, 1887 — October 10, 1958

Quite probably as he would have elected, had he had a choice, Benjamin Percy Young died at the end of a round of golf at Ithaca, New York. This was on October 10, 1958. Some years earlier, he had had a heart involvement which in a way must have served as a warning to him as it did to his friends. However, no one could think of him as a helpless old man, and his friends will remember him as a man who enjoyed life, and to the fullest extent when he was helping others in some way.

Emeritus Professor Young was born in Kansas City, Kansas, February 27, 1887. In 1908, the University of Kansas awarded him the Bachelor of Science degree, and Cornell University conferred the Doctor of Philosophy degree on him in 1919. In 1928, he carried on some advanced studies at Johns Hopkins University.

For seven years following his graduation, Professor Young served as high school principal and as city school superintendent in Kansas. In 1915, he renewed his university contacts and served until 1917 as instructor in entomology at the University of Kansas. In 1917, he became instructor in entomology at Cornell, and on receipt of his doctorate became Assistant Professor of Zoology. In 1940, he was made Associate Professor of Zoology and in 1952 Emeritus Professor.

Professor Young's academic interests centered largely in invertebrate zoology, with special emphasis on protozoology, helminthology, and parasitism. He made contributions to our understanding of the life history of the spring cankerworm, of the embryology of the honey bee, and more particularly of the attachment of the thorax to the abdomen in the Diptera.

Professor Young had a strong interest in the teaching of zoology to beginning college students. To help him improve his services here, he studied procedures at Johns Hopkins University and at the Wood's Hole Marine Laboratory. Furthering this interest, in 1935, he visited laboratories in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, France, Belgium, England, and Scotland. Seven years later, in 1942, he extended these studies to the western and southwestern parts of the United States. The year 1950 saw him getting further enrichment in Bermuda and, even after retirement, he continued to broaden his geographic experience by travel in Hawaii. Most of these experiences found expression in revisions and improvement of the laboratory manual which he and the late Professor of Zoology, Hugh Daniel Reed, had developed for use in beginning college classes.

Professional standing in his field was attested by membership in Sigma Xi and in Phi Kappa Phi, in the Society of Parasitology, the American Association of the Advancement of Science, and the American Association of University Professors.

The civic record of Professor Young was justly a matter of considerable satisfaction to him. During his career outside the classroom, he served the community in various positions. He was a trustee of the First Methodist Church of Ithaca, New York. He served in a number of capacities in the local Community Chest. For some time, he was secretary of the Village of Cayuga Heights. From 1927 to 1932, he served on the Cayuga Heights School Board, part of the time as president of that Board. In that capacity, he represented views between those favoring little development and those favoring a more ambitious growth on a site a half mile north of the location of the present school.

The Ithaca Rotary Club elected Professor Young to membership in 1928, and he continued as a member until his death. During the year 1947-1948, he served as president of the club and stimulated it to its first 100 per cent membership in the International Rotary Foundation. This Foundation serves an important role in sponsoring university scholarships on a world basis.

The home life of Professor Young and his wife, the former Nola Ayers, was ideal. A daughter, now Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Oliver, and a son, John Ayers Young, prospered in this atmosphere. The many students who were trained in the classrooms over which Professor Young presided, and the many citizens outside those classrooms who knew the man, as well as the faculty members with whom he worked, must regret the loss of his friendly, helpful personality.

E. L. Palmer, Perry Gilbert, Robert Matheson