

Henry Augustus Sill

— August 13, 1917

The Professor of Philosophy, Professor Thilly, introduced the following resolutions which were adopted by rising vote:

The University Faculty deeply deplores the loss of Professor Henry Augustus Sill, who, in mid-August, just before the completion of his summer lectures at Columbia University, was snatched from life by sudden illness. He had served the University with loyal zeal and marked ability, and he died in the prime of his manhood before the fulfillment of all the high hopes which his gifts of mind and rich scholarship had inspired.

At his coming to us, fifteen years ago, he identified himself promptly and fully with the life of the University. In the work of this body, as in all the Faculties in which he held membership, his interest was ardent and unflagging. Advancing their purposes by his facility in suggestion and never losing sight of the educational purpose to which their action was directed, he won the respect and admiration of us all by his honesty of purpose, his warmth of heart, his frankness and straight-forwardness, his good humor and generous temper. Although his regard for the opinions of his colleagues was great and he yearned to have their confidence and good-will, he did not fear to embrace the unpopular cause, and no one was ever left in doubt as to where he stood. He met every call for service willingly and enthusiastically, and performed with energy and loyal devotion every duty he undertook.

An inspiring class-room teacher, who brought the treasures of varied study and a full mind to the illustration of his theme, he was also, in the quiet of his office, a helpful counselor to many a perplexed student, who came to appreciate in no common measure the stimulus of his many-sided comment, often humorous but never frivolous, upon the concerns of scholarship and the larger problems of life.

A progressive by temper as by political conviction, he was actively concerned for the betterment of the University and the community, giving his time and energy without stint to all projects which might promote good scholarship or good citizenship. The University Club was largely his creation, the Arts Association his protege, the project for a Student Union eagerly furthered by him; and these are but a few of the activities which were always outrunning his time and his strength and crowding into the background his work as investigator, thinker, and writer, for which he seemed else so admirably fitted. Few among us could so ill be spared.

Committee: Geo. L. Burr, Charles H. Hull, Frank Thilly, Chairman.

Source: Records, p. 919, October 10, 1917

Cornell University Faculty Memorial Statement

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