

Thomas L. Bayne

December 31, 1891 — December 16, 1983

Thomas L. Bayne was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 31, 1891. He attended the public schools of his native state until 1908, when he was admitted to Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. After two years in this institution he graduated with a science diploma in June 1910. In the fall of the same year, he was admitted to the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. After two years he transferred to North Carolina State College, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1914. After teaching science from 1914 to 1917 in the North Carolina public schools, he joined the army and served with the infantry in France. From the conclusion of the armistice in 1917, he served as first lieutenant in the army of occupation in Germany until he received an honorable discharge.

With the conclusion of his war service, Bayne returned to North Carolina and was appointed instructor in vegetable crops and horticulture at North Carolina State College. As a result of this year of experience he decided to continue his education and was admitted to the Graduate School at Cornell with an appointment as a graduate assistant in the Department of Rural Education from 1920 to 1924. While serving as a graduate assistant, Bayne completed work for a Master of Science degree in 1923 and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1926 with a major in educational psychology and mathematics and statistics. He was appointed instructor in 1924, assistant professor in 1926, and associate professor in 1946. With the exception of one summer session at the University of Michigan and two summer sessions at Duke University, he taught continually at Cornell for thirty years, retiring in 1950.

Professor Bayne assisted with the statistical work in a variety of surveys and research studies and served as executive secretary of the newly created University Faculty Committee on Scholastic and Aptitude Testing from 1930 to 1946. In this capacity he directed the University's testing program for sixteen years and helped the various divisions of the University interpret and evaluate the results of these tests. During World War II, in addition to his regular teaching in the Department of Rural Education, he taught mathematics for the Department of Mathematics.

Though teaching was his main preoccupation, still he served as a consultant on public school surveys and participated in research projects dealing with measurement, statistics, educational psychology, and animal behavior. His publications dealt with educational measurement and statistics, as well as with experimental studies in human and animal learning. His sound judgment and intellectual honesty were respected by all his co-workers.

His many students remembered him for his poise, his insistence on democratic procedures, his willingness to listen to their problems, his unfailing courtesy, and his espousal of unpopular sides in discussions.

His colleagues in the Department of Rural Education remember him as a reserved but very cooperative fellow worker, who always willingly contributed generously to good causes and needs. They recognized, behind his dignified demeanor, an inherent kindness and affability that needed only to be tapped to produce sympathetic understanding and good will.

Professor Bayne died in Fairhope, Alabama, where he had been a resident for many years. He is survived by his wife, Janet Bayne of Fairhope; four daughters: Margaret B. French of Orlando, Florida; Caroline N. Ulrich of Glendora, California; Mrs. Cary E. Kendrick of Wickenburg, Arizona; and Elinor Castaguola of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; thirteen grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren.

J. P. Bail, Walter Pauk, Marvin D. Glock