

Willard Winfield Rowlee

Professor of Botany

1861 — August 8, 1923

The Board of Trustees and the University Faculty deplore the loss of Professor Willard Winfield Rowlee, who died, after a protracted illness, August 8, 1923. Professor Rowlee was graduated from Cornell University in 1888. For thirty-four years he gave his Alma Mater continuous, loyal service and was summoned just as he was taking up special research of a character for which he was eminently fitted,

On graduation he was appointed an assistant in botany and entered the Graduate School. In 1893, he received the degree of Doctor of Science. Beginning as an assistant in botany in the College of Arts and Sciences he advanced to the headship of that department.

Professor Rowlee was a painstaking teacher, a wise counselor and a careful investigator. He made many valuable contributions to the technical journals of botany, particularly through articles in the field of dendrology. He was keenly interested in the geography and ecology of the plants of Central New York. From his work with Willows, Professor Rowlee was generally regarded as an authority on that botanical family. In his later years his revision of the genus *Ochroma* served as the basis for his studies on the utility of Balsa. He also revised the genus *Costus* in Central America and investigated other tropical plants. It was ever his desire to seek the practical application of the results of scientific investigation.

Professor Rowlee served the University in a variety of ways. For many years he had supervision of the grounds and the planting on the campus. He was interested in athletics and devoted much time to the development of the playground and also of Schoellkopf Field and was faculty advisor for football. He served most acceptably on the Committee on Student Affairs and for several years was its chairman. He was long secretary of the Associate Alumni Association, was active in the organization of the Association of Class Secretaries, and was a most efficient Secretary of his Class. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science a member of the American Society of Naturalists and of the Botanical Society of America. He had also been a member for many years of the Town and Gown Club of Ithaca.

Professor Rowlee was quiet and unassuming. He had the ability of impressing everyone with his personal sincerity and scientific accuracy. He was public spirited and interested in civic affairs. He was an alderman for four years and belonged to the Protective Police of the city. Few men have served the University for a longer period or in a

larger sphere of usefulness than did Professor Rowlee. In his death, the University has lost a friend of high ideals, a thorough and distinguished teacher, and a devoted and loyal supporter.

Source: Fac. Rec, p. 1334 Adopted by The Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University October, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-Three