

# George Walter Cavanaugh

*February 4, 1870 — July 2, 1938*

The retirement of George Walter Cavanaugh at the end of the last academic year, and his death on July 2, 1938, brought to a close an uninterrupted service of forty-seven years.

He was born in Watertown, New York, February 4, 1870. After graduation from the Watertown High School he taught school for one year at Rutland, New York. He graduated from Cornell University in 1896 with the degree of bachelor of science. In 1891, while still a junior in the University, he was appointed assistant chemist in the Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station. He held this position until 1903, when he was appointed assistant professor of Agricultural Chemistry. In 1909 he was made professor of Agricultural Chemistry, the position which he held until his retirement.

The development of the College of Agriculture to its present position was made possible to a large degree by those members of the staff who, in earlier days, carried science to the practical farmer. In this field Professor Cavanaugh played a large role. His engaging personality, his faculty of making clear the application of scientific facts to agriculture, and his interesting presentation, made him at all times a welcome lecturer at farmers' institutes.

Through his intimate association with the farmers of the State Professor Cavanaugh early realized the necessity of utilizing surplus agricultural products. The economical production of powdered milk was an important development resulting from his investigations.

From the beginning of the University, agricultural chemistry was recognized as fundamental to instruction in agriculture and later became an essential part of the Experiment Station. On the retirement of Professor Caldwell in 1903 Professor Cavanaugh succeeded him in the field of agricultural chemistry. Professor Cavanaugh was essentially a teacher. His subject matter was presented in an interesting and convincing manner. He was gracious and generous, and took a keen personal interest in his students. He will be remembered by a host of former students with affection and respect.

As a citizen, Professor Cavanaugh was a man of broad interests. He possessed a kindly disposition and a keen wit, was sympathetic and tolerant, and always ready to serve his fellow men. His influence on the life of the community in which he lived will not soon be forgotten.