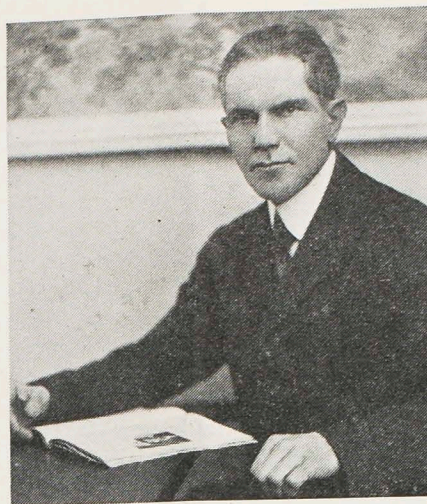


at Schenectady. When he graduated from Union College in 1887, one of his teachers, Prof. H. Whitehouse, professor of Greek, wrote of him: "I am able to testify from personal knowledge to his successful diligence as a student, and to the uniform propriety of his conduct, whereby he obtained for himself the respect and affection of his instructors." High compliments from professors of Greek may have been bestowed upon trackmen (for Professor Ashton won a medal in the races at Union while he was a student there) more often than now, but one has a feeling that they were not very common, even in those days.

His scholarly record at Union and the recommendations of his professors brought him immediate appointment as a teacher of mathematics in a private Episcopal school for boys at Oakfield, N. Y. He remained at Oakfield for two years, when, at the age of twenty-three, he was elected professor of mathematics in the State Normal School at Mansfield, Pa. It was at Mansfield that he met Miss Cora Phillips of Scranton as a student in one of his classes. Ambitious to secure the best instruction in his chosen field, he entered Harvard University for graduate study in 1892 and secured there the Master of Arts degree in 1893. After his election as an instructor at Harvard in 1894 he and Miss Phillips were married. After nine years of teaching in Harvard University, he came to the University of Kansas in 1903 as assistant professor of mathematics. Here the two daughters, Madeline, now a teacher of romance languages in Kansas City University, and Annette, now Mrs. Leon Bocker of Seattle, Wash., grew to womanhood and were graduated from the University.

Students in his classes here soon learned that loafers and incompetents would have a hard time of it and that the student who received a good grade must convince the professor that he had acquired the degree of mastery which the professor associated with that grade. But they also learned that Professor Ashton was willing to give time and effort to help the student who was doing his best. Many students who were not at first attracted by his class-room ways developed for him a most sincere affection as they continued to take more advanced courses under his instruction. Students always recognized his scholarly mastery of the subjects he taught and the thoroughness of his teaching.

His desire for still higher scholarship led him to secure leave of absence for



Professor Ashton

the year 1908-09 and take his family with him to Munich, Germany, where he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1909. I believe that he was the first American to receive this degree from the University of Munich after only one year of resident work there. His Doctor's thesis, entitled "Die Heinishen O-Funktionen," was published at Munich in 1909.

In collaboration with Walter R. Marsh, formerly head master Pingry School, Elizabeth, N.J., Professor Ashton published a series of four mathematical textbooks: Analytical Geometry (1900), Trigonometry (1902), Elementary Algebra (1905), and College Algebra (1907). These books were concise and scholarly. They were immediately successful and sold well for a considerable period of years.

In recognition of Professor Ashton's success as scholar, author and teacher, his alma mater, Union College, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in 1922.

As chairman of the department of mathematics he proved himself an able and judicious administrator. His interests, however, extended to the teaching of mathematics in the whole state and he was always present, until failing health prevented, at all important meetings of the Kansas teachers of mathematics. His loss will be keenly felt in their Association work.

A fondness for sports and games added much to his enjoyment of life and perhaps aided in lengthening his years to the full measure of the traditional three score and ten. In his younger years he liked to hunt and, later on, while vacationing in Estes Park, where he long maintained a summer home, he took many a trout from the Big Thompson river. Whenever he played a game he played it with

zest and all who accepted a challenge from him for golf or billiards will recall what pleasure he derived from skillful playing of those games.

Anyone who occupies for thirty-three years a position of responsibility and leadership in a University such as ours, must influence greatly the policies of administration, the views of other members of the faculty and the lives of students. So it was with Professor Ashton and we shall greatly miss the active force of his life in our midst. As we realize something of our individual and collective loss we paraphrase Bassanio's famous tribute to Antonio and say

..... the kindest man,
The best condition'd and unwearied
spirit

In doing courtesies; and one in whom
The old New England honour more
appeared,
Than any that drew breath among the
Puritans.

U. G. Mitchell.

Dr. Naismith Home

Dr. James Naismith returned to Lawrence Sept. 13 from his honorary trip to the Olympics provided by contributions last spring from basketball games all over the country. As inventor of the game of basketball it was a thrilling sight for him to see it included in the Olympic program for the first time. The officials arranged a demonstration by the 21 contesting teams in Dr. Naismith's honor. To see them all lined up under their national flags to be addressed by Dr. Naismith and by Dr. Karl Diem, general secretary of the Olympic committee, was an impressive occasion. The high quality of play of the teams, and the good sportsmanship exhibited, seemed remarkable to the Kansas professor, particularly in view of the fact that so many different languages were spoken. One interesting match was that between Uruguay, champion of South America, and Esthonia, champion of Europe. In the final game between Canada and the United States, one Chinese officiated. Dr. Naismith was made honorary president of the International Federation of Basketball Leagues. On the trip he visited his ancestral home in Glasgow, Scotland, was in England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. After the Olympics he went to Switzerland, saw two games between Swiss and Filipino teams, and was presented a great bouquet of flowers and was made honorary president of the Swiss Basketball League.

Mrs. Naismith spent the summer in Massachusetts.