

William Alexander Hammond

Professor of Ancient Philosophy

— May 7, 1938

The Faculty records with sorrow the death, on May 7, 1938, of one of its most distinguished members—William Alexander Hammond.

After graduating from Harvard in 1885, teaching for three years at King's College in Canada, and studying at Leipsic where he received the doctor's degree in 1891, Professor Hammond came to Cornell as instructor in philosophy in 1891. In 1908 he was appointed to the Professorship of Ancient Philosophy which he held until his retirement. He was one of the editors of the *Philosophical Review*, from 1924. From 1920 to 1930 he served as Dean of the University Faculty. After retiring, he continued useful activity as Consultant in Philosophy at the Library of Congress.

Professor Hammond was an outstanding member of the remarkable group of men who guided the destinies of the University through a critical period of its history—a period in which it grew from a position of uncertainty and experiment to an established and honorable place among the universities of America. During his long term of active service he influenced the University for good in many ways, combining in high degree the three functions of the university professor—of scholarship, teaching, and administration. Since his retirement the memory of his example has continued to exert its influence and inspiration.

As a scholar he did valuable service in his translations of the *Characters* of Theophrastus and the *De Anima* of Aristotle, in his work as editor of the *Philosophical Review*, and, even after his retirement, in his *Bibliography of Aesthetics and the Philosophy of the Fine Arts*. As a teacher he inspired his advanced students in philosophy by his zeal for learning and pure scholarship, and his large classes of undergraduates in the Fine Arts by his enthusiasm and his humanity. Probably even more valuable was his contribution to the wise government of the University through his long service as Dean of the University Faculty and Chairman of the Committee on Student Affairs. Here his tact, his refined and lofty ethical outlook, his worldly wisdom and shrewdness, and his knowledge of men and women, both young and old, fulfilled their highest functions. He saved many a critical situation in council and government by his good humor and his gentle methods of conciliation and intermediation. At the same time he was always sturdy and outspoken in the defense of principles which he thought popular sentiment or false expediency threatened with defeat.

For his high standards of scholarship, his refinement of taste and conduct, his kindly sympathy, his breadth of mind and magnanimity, his memory will be long honored by all friends of the University.

Source: Fac. Rec. p. 2057 Resolutions of the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University, June, Nineteen Hundred And Thirty-Eight

Retired: June, 1930 Fac. Rec. p. 1635