

George Irving Dale

August 12, 1886 — June 19, 1960

George Irving Dale was born in Rome, New York, the son of James and Edith (Heeley) Dale. He attended the Schenectady High School and graduated from Cornell with the degree of A.B. in 1910. He was a member of Bandhu fraternity and of Phi Beta Kappa. He remained at Cornell as a graduate student, working especially with Professor Everett Ward Olmsted, and collaborating with his master in the composition and publication of a *French Grammar*. He took the Ph.D. degree with Spanish as his major subject in 1918. Previously, in 1915, he had gone to Washington University, St. Louis; there he rose to be Professor.

He returned to Cornell in 1925 as Professor of Romance Languages, becoming in 1946 Professor of Romance Literature. He retired in 1954, after 29 years on the Cornell Faculty.

He was an admirable linguist, competent in Russian as well as the Romance languages, and was a cogent writer. In addition to many articles for scholarly journals and compendia, and the *French Grammar* mentioned above, he published a critical edition of *Ver y no creer*, a seventeenth-century play attributed to Lope de Vega, a *Portuguese Reader* (the first in this country), and a *Spanish Grammar* (with Thomas G. Bergin). He was associate editor of *Hispania*, the journal of teachers of Spanish, and was prominent in the meetings of the Modern Language Association. His special interest was in the drama of the seventeenth century, the Spanish Golden Age.

He was one of the kindest, the sweetest-natured, of men. His character made him an exemplary teacher—not that he was easy with his students, but because he was eager to draw forth their interest in the subjects of his own enthusiasm. Many former students, now themselves teachers of Romance languages, owe their first stimulation in the subject to his example.

The old teachers pass, one by one, and their friends who knew their qualities and virtues pass too. But the old teachers remain alive in their students' methods, memories, and affections. The students will in turn pass on something of what they have learned from their masters. This is the special immortality vouchsafed to the good teacher.

George Dale is survived by his wife, the former Alvena Hartung, whom he married in 1914; by his daughter Marjorie, Cornell '40, now Mrs. John G. Hemingway of Lyons; and by five grandchildren.

Morris Bishop, Harry Caplan, Blanchard L. Rideout