

Grinnell and You
June, 1924

THE SUDDEN DEATH OF
PROFESSOR SCHEVE.

The community of Grinnell was shocked immeasurably at the news which came Thursday morning, June 19, of the death the night before, in the hospital at Longmont, Colorado, of Professor Edward B. Scheve, our "beloved musician." Mr. and Mrs. Scheve had been in Grinnell for several days late in May, on the way to their cottage in the Colorado mountains, after two years spent in travel and rest in the east. Mr. Scheve was in the best of health and high spirits; he played at senior chapel in his inimitable way, and his return to his work in September seemed to be anticipated as much by himself, as by his hosts of friends. After reaching their cottage, where he seemed to enjoy himself more than usual, he over-exerted himself battling deep snowdrifts that had piled up late in the season; an old ailment, but not a serious one, took him to the hospital, where an operation was decided upon; following complications were severe, and after several days of suffering he succumbed, with not one of his thousands of friends near him, but only his devoted wife. Funeral services were held at the First Congregational church of Grinnell Saturday afternoon, June 21; he is buried in Hazelwood.

Professor Scheve was born at Herford, Germany, in 1865. He came to America about 1890, first to Rochester, N. Y., where through the friendship between his father and the elder Rauschenbusch he found a welcome. After a number of years of highly successful musical work in Chicago, Professor Scheve came to Grinnell in 1906. He found an immediate place in the heart of all Grinnell—students, faculty, and townspeople—not only because of his musicianship, which was a revelation, but because of the rare charm of his character and the distinction of his personality.

The attachment which Grinnell felt for the Scheves was happily reciprocated. Many calls to positions in metropolitan centers came to him, but he loved Grinnell. Twice with Mrs. Scheve, he took leaves of absence abroad; at the time of his death they were nearing the end of a two years'

leave spent most happily in renewing their associations of former years in the east.

The magnitude of his genius is greater than any of us who were associated with him yet realize. He was a great teacher, a great organist, and a great composer. He made Grinnell musical, and any future history of the college and the town will number him among the real founders of Grinnell.

Mrs. Scheve for the present will make her home in Grinnell, among the neighbors who, with thousands of friends all over the world, join in one common tribute to the greatness and lovableness of the departed master.

With the coming of Professor Scheve eighteen years ago music took on a new meaning at Grinnell. Able musicians had always been represented on the faculty, but Professor Scheve was more than an able musician—he was a genius. The essentials of music are acquired without great difficulty, and many people acquire them. The spirit of music is another matter; whether it can be acquired, or whether it must be inborn, remains a mystery. Professor Scheve was the embodiment of the spirit of music; he spoke in tone—sometimes of joy, sometimes of sorrow, often majestically, and always reverently. Moreover, he spoke in tone so that everyone who listened was able to understand; his utterances were always direct and simple, from the fullness of a heart overflowing with love for God and man.

A little while ago he was with us, at senior chapel, on a beautiful morning in May, speaking, through the tones of the organ he loved so well, of joy and strength, and eagerness to resume his work here.

On a beautiful afternoon in June we laid him to rest in Hazelwood, never to leave us again. His spirit rests like a benediction; his work lives in the hearts of all who knew him, and his name will forever be venerated as one of the builders of Grinnell.

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EDWARD B. SCHEVE, 1865--1924

