

Graduated From Grinnell
In Class of '79; Died
Friday at 84.

The country lost one of its most distinguished chemists and Grinnell college one of its most illustrious graduates, when Prof. William Albert Noyes passed away in the University Hospital in his home city of Urbana, Ill., Friday morning at the age of 84.

For many years head of the chemistry department of the University of Illinois. Professor Noyes had made a nation-wide name for himself in his chosen field and during his long life had won high standing not only as a scientist but as a good citizen and an upright man.

Funeral services were held Saturday in Urbana. Mrs. Noyes and her two sons, Richard and Pierre, arrived in Grinnell Sunday with the body and graveside services were held at the Macy lot in Grinnell cemetery at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Leiland W. Mann and Dr. J. S. Nollen.

Dr. Nollen spoke briefly and with feeling of the career of Dr. Noyes, referring not only to his present activity as a scientist but to the other interests which contributed to his well-rounded life and to the many fine qualities, the gentleness and sympathy which made him a friend to be cherished. He referred to his relationship with Grinnell College and expressed the hope that his memory might be kept green as one of Grinnell's most distinguished sons. Rev. Mr. Mann conducted the brief committal service.

Born at Independence.
Professor Noyes was born in Independence, Ia., and received his bachelor's degree in science and arts from Grinnell college with the class of 1879, later pursuing postgraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Munich. He began his teaching in Grinnell college and also taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Tennessee and the Rose Polytechnic Institute.

After four years as chief chemist for the Bureau of Standards he came to the University of Illinois as head of the chemistry department in 1907, continuing in that capacity until 1926, when he became professor emeritus. Under his inspiring leadership the department grew greatly in size and acquired an international reputation.

Editor, Writer.
In addition to his university work, Professor Noyes found time for many other pursuits. He was active and influential in the American Chemical Society. He founded Chemical Abstracts and was its editor from 1907 to 1909. He was editor of the Society's Journal from 1902 to 1917 and was president of the Society in 1920. He served as associate editor of the Journal and as a member of the board of editors of the Scientific Monographs of the American Chemical Society. He was editor of Chemical Reviews from 1924 to 1926.

Beside this vast amount of editorial work, Dr. Noyes found time to write several books and a large number of articles, embracing not only all fields of chemistry but religion, philosophy and inter-

Professor Noyes was awarded the Nichols Medal in 1908, the

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Gibbs Medal in 1920 and Priestly Medal in 1953. He has honorary degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Grinnell College. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the African Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

In view of his wide attainment in the field of science it was right that when a new chemistry building was dedicated at the University of Illinois in 1933 should bear the name of the illustrious Albert Noyes Chemical Laboratory.

One of the most impressive many tributes which he received was a dinner given in his honor by his colleagues on the occasion of his retirement.

of his eighteenth birthday. At that time he was presented with a parchment signed by the members of the teaching staff and inscribed: "this opportunity to congratulate you upon your achievements and to wish you continued success and happiness."

to the following words:

"To William Albert Noyes
The celebration of your eightieth birthday is an event which we, your colleagues, and I hope, your friends, are proud to share. We realize the privilege on this occasion is one which belongs not to us alone, but rather to the entire chemical world. Chemistry everywhere—of every persuasion—shares the feeling of gratitude and high esteem which you would express.

coveries, your successful promotion of chemical societies and journals, and your inspiring guidance of students and colleagues have made your name immortal among men of science. We take

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1941

An Appreciation of William Albert Noyes

This tribute to Dr. Noyes was read by Dr. John S. Noller at the graveside service held for the eminent Grinnell college alumnus last Sunday at Hazelwood cemetery.

One of the oldest records in the Book of Genesis has these familiar words: "There were giants in the earth in those days—the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown." Even among primitive men in the most ancient time, there was a sense of the great difference in quality between successive generations. No one can go through the class lists in a college alumni register without being conscious of similar differences.

Among the early graduating classes in Grinnell college, the class of 1879 stands out conspicuously in contrast with other classes whose members grew to be excellent but undistinguished citizens. It was the largest class graduated up to that date, yet

Only 21 members, of this small group, an unusual proportion stood out later above the common level, including three who made brilliant records in graduate work at Johns Hopkins University: Herbert Maagou in biology, Albert Shaw in political science, and William Albert Noyes in chemistry. These men were destined in later years to achieve international as well as national fame in their respective fields of research and public life.

Dr. Noyes came to Grinnell 35
from a rural background in
central Iowa, and here he
received both the impulse to the
socialized field of investigation in
which he became eminent, and al-
though breadth of knowledge and
erect which it is the function
the liberal arts college to in-
tegrate in its students.

Dr. Noyes shared with many other men of really superior attainments an unassuming modesty and quietness of demeanor which could not help attracting to him the affection of friends, as associates and students. He shared with other great scientists the devotion to the finest ideals and devoutness of religious faith which only small minds can affect to despise.

It would be well if successive generations of students could, by appreciation and imitation, pay homage to this son of Grinnell who was both a fine scientist and an honorable Christian gentleman.

The quality of the young man's mind may appear from the fact that, working under the greatest specialists in the country, he was awarded his Doctorate at the age of 24. His subsequent career in teaching and research, the honors awarded him for distinguished work in his field, his publications and leadership in learned societies are matters of record which need not emphasize here.

At the University of Illinois where he was in charge of the Department of Chemistry during the last 19 of his 43 years of active teaching, there stands a permanent memorial to him in the Noyes Laboratory of Chemistry. But while earning eminence in his particular field of research Dr. Noyes continued to honor the ideals of his alma mater here at Grinnell by the breadth of his human and humane interests, attested by many publications in the fields of economics, international