

PHILIP SPONG.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.
FEBRUARY 28, 1898.

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MAY 21, 1925.

With the passing of Philip Spong the Indiana Academy of Science has lost a member who was young in years but who had given promise of unusual achievements.

Mr. Spong showed a love for nature study while a pupil in the grade schools of Indianapolis. At Shortridge High School he became interested in zoology and was chosen assistant in the Zoological Department. He was one of those unusual individuals who is always willing to do the



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unusual thing. Many nights he spent "sugaring" for moths, and thereby not only gathered a large amount of information in regard to moths, their friends and enemies, but was able to collect specimens which few persons obtain. The struggle for existence among nocturnal forms of life was impressed on him, especially when the object of his watchful waiting was snatched almost out of his hands by some equally patient but more expert bat.

At Shortridge, Mr. Spong began to show a talent for classifying and mounting insects which was unusual in one of his age. A large collection of South American insects was relaxed and mounted during his high school period.

From Shortridge, he came to Butler College where he maintained a high grade of work in all scientific departments. His mind was alert and active; he not only mastered the material given to him by his instructors—he was continually exploring on his own account. In 1917 he was awarded the Woods Hole Scholarship in Zoology and became laboratory assistant in the department. During this period he was employed occasionally at the office of the Indiana State Entomologist, where he served as regular assistant from June, 1917, to September, 1918. Here he did a large amount of highly valuable work in bringing the office collections into permanent and usable shape.

Following his graduation at Butler, Mr. Spong was awarded a graduate assistantship at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Here he was elected to membership in the honorary society Phi Kappa Phi, and at the end of the summer of 1923 he had completed the requirements for the Master's degree. Immediately afterwards, he was elected head of the Department of Biology at the State Normal School, Wayne, Nebraska, where he continued to serve until the beginning of his last illness.

During his service of less than two years at Wayne, Mr. Spong's ability was revealed clearly by his success in the organization and up-building of his department. He also began the preparation of an insect collection which was mounted with a skill rarely equalled outside of the largest museums. Models, drawings and other preparations for his school work showed the same precision and excellence in their execution. Two unfinished manuscripts furnish evidence that his productive talents also were beginning to bear fruit.

The value of a young man's life must be measured chiefly by the promise of future achievement. Measured in this way, the world of science has lost a valuable man in the passing of Philip Spong.

In December, 1923, he married Miss Rosalie Baker of Indianapolis, a member of the senior class of Butler College. His wife and an infant daughter survive him.

H. L. BRUNER.