

# Dr. Ritchie Leaves the University Campus After 35 Years Teaching

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Dr. R. H. Ritchie, known by every student at Ottawa University for the last 35 years, retired at the end of the first semester. The 83-year old English professor will soon move to Sunset Baptist Home in Concordia.

"The youngest old man I've ever known," is the way President Martin spoke of him. Despite his years, 50 of them in college teaching, Prof. Ritchie still lives in the present. He often recalls many alumni who once sat in his classes, but his thoughts concern chiefly the students of the current years.

In Dr. Ritchie's honor, students and faculty held a special day on January 30. At a chapel, Dr. W. A. Elliott, Dr. Martin and others spoke of his great contribution to the University. At the close, he was given a portable typewriter.

Why a typewriter? That's what he wanted. At Concordia he expects to start a library, do some writing, and catch up on his reading. "Prof" could remain in Ottawa, or live with his son Morris in St. Louis, but he thinks Sunset home is a place where he can do the most good.

He was born in 1866 at Haliburton, Ontario, Canada. At the age of 12 he moved with his parents to North Dakota. After attending Moody Institute and Northwestern University he graduated with an A. B. degree from University of Chicago in 1900, earning most of his tuition by winning prizes in declamation contests. From 1900 to 1903 he taught at Colorado College, from 1903 to 1913 at Emporia State. In 1913-14 he studied for his A. M. degree at Harvard and taught the following year at Alma College in Michigan.

He came to Ottawa in 1915 as assistant professor of English. Four years later he became head of the department when Charles V. Stansell resigned, accepting a position as editorial writer for the Kansas City Star. In 1936 "Prof" retired from the headship of the department. Since that time he has

taught a few courses each year.

Mrs. Ritchie, whom he married in 1898, died in 1944. Son Morris is an engineer with Southwestern Bell Telephone company in St. Louis. He graduated from O. U. in 1923. Daughter Evanella, a former O. U. student, died in 1929.

Many honors have come to Prof. Ritchie. In 1937 the University presented him an honorary doctor of literature degree. Widely recognized in the field of English teaching, he was member of the Kansas association of English teachers and of the English council of the North Central Association. Forensics were always a main interest. He served a term as governor of the province of the plains, Pi Kappa Delta, national forensic fraternity. He coached many O. U. debate teams.

He was an active Baptist layman in the Ottawa First Baptist church and in state and Northern Baptist organizations.

Dr. Martin commented on Dr. Ritchie's retirement by saying, "His loyalty and cooperation are remarkable. He has much educational wisdom which he has been kind enough to share with me. A man of great Christian convictions, he has never hesitated to push them into any aspect of life. We hate to see him go. We will always cherish his friendship."

As for Prof. Ritchie, he wants it distinctly understood that he is not retiring from anything. He is retiring to something new.

## CHOIR TO BROADCAST

The Concert Choir will be featured in "Mid-America sings" series of programs over station KCMO, Kansas City, Sunday, April 30, at one o'clock. The station broadcasting at 810 kilocycles can be heard within a 200-mile radius of Kansas City.

## Dr. Martin to Speak at Western Reunions

President Andrew B. Martin will speak at alumni meetings in California and Colorado, April 18 to 22.

He will meet with the Frank White Chapter, Southern California, April 18. The place of the reunion has not been determined. Robert Ebaugh, '30, acting president, and a committee are working on arrangements. Notices will be sent to all people on the chapter lists. Ebaugh lives at 611 East Wapello, Altadena. Those who do not receive notices may call him or the secretary, Mrs. Charles Alford, 228 West H street, Ontario.

Arrangements are being made for a meeting in Northern California on April 20 at Berkeley or San Francisco.

April 22, Dr. Martin will be present at the meeting of Denver alumni. The University choir will also be present for that occasion.

## Alumni Reunion Trophy Is Renewed

The Guy Sears Memorial trophy, presented by the Class of 1895, to be awarded each spring to the reunion class with the best attendance, looks like new these days.

H. G. Berkey, a member of the 1914 class which won last year, had the cup repaired and resilvered. Now it is as bright as the first day it was presented.

## Dr. Browning Meets Pratt Alumni

Dr. Roy W. Browning of the O. U. department of education met with alumni in Pratt, Kansas, vicinity, November 21. Invited to speak at a Chamber of Commerce dinner in Pratt, he took the occasion to talk with alumni at a coffee hour session. The following day he visited Ottawans teaching in the area, a part of his program to visit as many schools as possible during the year.