

## IN MEMORIAM

FREDERICK WILLIAM LOETSCHER

1875-1966

Dr. Frederick William Loetscher, in former years one of the most active members of the American Society of Church History, died at Princeton July 31, 1966. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, May 15, 1875, he was one of the oldest of our members. Having graduated with high honors from Princeton University in 1896, he went on to obtain the degrees of M.A., B.D., and PH.D. at Princeton and carried his studies further at Berlin and Strassburg. He became Professor of Homiletics in Princeton Seminary in 1910, and from 1913 to 1945 was Archibald Alexander Professor of Church History in the Seminary. On his retirement from the chair at the age of seventy, he was invited to join the faculty of Temple University, where he taught for six years. Dr. Loetscher was one of the few who reorganized the American Society of Church History in 1916, and from 1918 to 1933 he was its efficient and exemplary Secretary. In this office there fell to him the important task of editing the Society's papers for the period prior to the publication of this journal. He was President of the Society in 1934, and his masterly presidential address (delivered as a memorized oration) on "St. Augustine's Conception of the State" was printed in *Church History* IV, 1935, pp. 16-42. Other publications include his doctoral dissertation, *Schwenkfeld's Participation in the Eucharistic Controversies of the sixteenth Century*, contributions to *Collier's Encyclopedia*, and numerous articles, addresses and reviews. A conscientious churchman, he participated actively in the work of his presbytery and in committees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and during three decades (1911-1941) edited the *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*. His ecumenical interest is attested by his membership in the American Theological Committee of the World Conference on Faith and Order and his service as Secretary of the Committee in 1939. He held honorary degrees from Lafayette College and the University of Dubuque. Dr. Loetscher will be remembered as a devout theologian, an eloquent preacher and lecturer, a meticulous scholar and able writer, and a man of unusual practical gifts.

JOHN T. McNEILL