

MEMORIAL FOR

Fulton Henry Anderson, M. A., Ph. D., Ll. D., D. Litt.,
F. R. S. C.

FULTON Henry Anderson, Emeritus Professor and former Head of the Department of Philosophy in the University of Toronto and Head of the Department of Ethics in University College, died at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on January 11, 1968, at the age of 72.

Professor Anderson was born on May 23, 1895, at Morell, Prince Edward Island, where he received his primary education. He attended Dalhousie University, from which he obtained the B.A. degree in 1917. It was at Dalhousie that he was introduced to philosophy by H.L. Stewart, an experience which turned his thoughts towards an academic career. He enrolled in Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, taking the M.A. in 1918 and the Ph. D. in 1920. Here he came under the influence of another peerless teacher and scholar, G. S. Brett. After one term as Proctor Fellow at Princeton, and another at the University of Munich, he was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado in 1921. Three years later, he returned to the University of Toronto as a Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy (1924). Steady advancement followed. He became Assistant Professor in 1926, Associate Professor in 1929, and Professor in 1934. On the death of Brett, he was made Acting Head of the Department of Philosophy and in 1945, Head of both the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Ethics in University College. These posts he held until his retirement in 1963. That year he was given an Ll. D. by Dalhousie, and shortly afterwards a D. Litt. by the University of Waterloo. In 1947 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and during the Winter term of 1957 he was Visiting Professor at the University of Southern California where he gave the Arensberg Lectures.

Somewhat unexpectedly, in 1966, he became Acting Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Huntington College, Laurentian University and, perhaps to his own surprise, he found life in

that part of Ontario wholly to his liking. It was while about to give some lectures as a Visiting Professor at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown that he was stricken with paralysis, which proved to be fatal.

Professor Anderson's scholarly interests were centered on three philosophers, Plato, Francis Bacon and John Locke. His first published work, an extension of his Ph. D. thesis, was *The Influence of Contemporary Science on Locke's Method* (1923). This was followed by *The Argument of Plato* (1934), *The Philosophy of Francis Bacon* (1948) and *Francis Bacon: His Career and Thought* (1965). He also edited with introductions three of Plato's dialogues (*Symposium*, *Meno*, and *Phaedo*) and Bacon's *Novum Organum*. At the time of his death he was writing about Plotinus, an interest that developed after his retirement. But the master work on Locke was never finished. A vast array of notes, papers, and drafts of chapters of this work fills two filing cabinets, but it is uncertain whether the material is in a form that will permit editing for publication.

In the classroom, Professor Anderson's presence was unforgettable. He was not one of those believe that a teacher should be benign and permissive. His students were expected—one might almost say, ordered—to work hard, and most of them did, the superior ones because of the interest he excited in the subject, the rest because of the awesome consequences of any other policy. Particularly notable were the lectures he gave to undergraduates on Plato, the philosopher he admired most—as John Dewey was the one he admired least!

Equally unforgettable was Professor Anderson's presence in university and college councils. When he rose to speak, the audience braced itself for pithy and pungent comments, for witty and picturesque phrases that rarely failed to hit the mark. Politics on the national scale held little appeal for him. But university politics he found endlessly fascinating, and he played a considerable part in giving it shape during his four decades as a member of this University.

Although to outward view he was a forthright and commanding figure, this was only one aspect of the man. There was also an inner nature, sensitive, intricate, and proud. His own experience enabled him to understand and sympathize with the plight of

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those who faced personal difficulties. Over the years, many students were recipients of financial and other help, freely given by him. In social gatherings, he was a lively conversationalist whose company it was always diverting to share. He had an enduring interest in the arts, especially in music and painting; and during holidays he pursued with enthusiasm the recreation listed (very characteristically) in the *Canadian Who's Who* as “dry fly fishing, trout and salmon.”

With Fulton Anderson's death there has passed from the scene a scholar of distinction, a teacher of great influence, and a unique and colourful personality.

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