IN MEMORIAM: FRED LEMAR CHARLES.

ELLIOT R. DOWNING.

Fred Lemar Charles was born at Aurora, Illinois, November 15, 1874. His father was then County Superintendent of King County; his mother, a woman of culture, of sensitive and poetic temperament. He attended school in the graded schools and high school of Austin, Illinois, then went on to Northwestern University, where he graduated, and later attended the University of Chicago, from which institution he received his master's degree. Two summers were spent at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and it was while we were there together that the author of this sketch formed that friendship for Mr. Charles which lasted until the time of his death, as did all friendships with this man. When once you were taken into the circle of his intimates, the attachment was bound to be a life-long attachment.

He began his teaching in Lakeview High School, then went to the Northern Illinois State Normal at DeKalb, in which institution he remained for ten years, 1899-1909, as head of the Department of Biology. He was then called to the University of Illinois, as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education. In January, 1910, he assumed the editorship of the Nature-Study Review, which magazine he continued to edit until his death.

In 1904 he married Miss Elsie Davis, and shortly afterwards built the house in DeKalb which was their home, and the home of their two children, for several years. Mr. Charles' home life was ideal, his devotion to his family was untiring, and in his home he found his largest enjoyment.

He was a man of sterling worth, lovable and loyal, conscientious and upright, brilliant and determined. He was sensitive to a degree, artistic and poetic, a man who was not only a student of nature, but a thorough lover of nature. I quote from Professor W. C. Bagley:

"But there was another side to his life, and there was another type of influence that he exerted over those who knew him well. When a man is in almost constant physical pain; when he feels that he is gradually but surely losing his grip on the threads of life; and when, under this condition, he can clinch his teeth as Charles did, and work on steadfastly while only the great dark looms up before him; when he can mingle with his friends and live in close association with his fellow-workers without once re-

vealing, save perhaps through the indirect expressions that no man can inhibit, the physical and mental torture that he is undergoing; then he has set a standard that deserves the name of achievement, if any conquest in this life deserves that name."

As a teacher he was equally successful in handling children and advanced students. He not only succeeded in inspiring his students with a zeal for the subject matter that he dealt with, but he also gave them an enthusiasm for the high ideals that were always his, and imparted also some of that spirit of self-sacrificing devotion that ruled his own life. He was skillful in planning, and wise in execution, as is evidenced by the successful organization of the mass of chaotic material which he had to arrange in formulating a course in elementary agricultural education. His ability is shown again in his work as an editor, and a leader in nature study. I quote from B. M. Davis, President of the American Nature-Study Society:

"Those who were fortunate in knowing Professor Charles keenly feel the personal loss, and those who knew of him through his educational activities, particularly in the cause of nature study, will miss his leadership.

"The American Nature-Study Society owes much to him. He was interested from its beginning as a member and as an officer. As editor of this magazine he made many sacrifices in its behalf. He did not spare himself, but thought only of its success. The measure of this success is known to all its readers."

I am happy to have this opportunity to express my appreciation of, and regard for, Fred L. Charles, as a student of nature, a teacher of her ways, an inspiration to the student body with which he came in contact, a loyal friend, a royal man.