



Francis Ramaley

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FRANCIS RAMALEY

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On June 10, 1942, death brought to an end the long and productive career of Professor Francis Ramaley. His life was one of achievement in the field of biology, of inspiration to thousands of students, of service to his institution, and to the community in which he spent the last forty-four years of his life. Professor Ramaley was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on November 16, 1870. From the University of Minnesota he received the bachelor's degree in 1895, the master's degree in 1896, and the doctor's degree in 1899. From 1895 to 1898 he was instructor in botany at his Alma Mater. In the latter year he came to the University of Colorado as assistant professor of biology; in 1899 was appointed professor of biology, and a year later became head of the department, which responsibility he shouldered until his retirement in 1939.

Professor Ramaley had remarkably broad interests in the field of biology, but his chief scientific contributions were in plant ecology. He has given us in his many publications a clear description and analysis of the vegetation of many parts of Colorado, particularly of the subalpine and montane regions and of the sandhills and sand dunes. Between 1931 and 1934 appeared papers on the effects of supplemental artificial light on plants, particularly on blooming. In 1909 he established the University of Colorado Mountain Laboratory at Tolland, Colorado, which he directed until 1919.

One who has been his student and later an associate cannot refrain from comment upon Professor Ramaley as a teacher. He

was a master in the lecture room and laboratory in the use of simple, concise, King's English, and clear, logical explanations. He taught with patience, sympathy, and understanding, and throughout with a thread of humor. He had accumulated a very large number of lantern slides from his travels in Japan, Ceylon, and Java, as well as from his extensive field trips in the Rocky Mountains, and these he used effectively in his teaching. The breadth of his biological interests is shown by the fact that for many years he taught zoology, animal histology and embryology, and conducted a popular course in hygiene. His seminars in evolution and heredity were eagerly attended by advanced students.

Professor Ramaley was an active participant at scientific meetings, both national and local. In 1931 he was vice-president, and in 1940 president, of the Ecological Society of America. During the last two years of his life he was botanical editor of *Ecology*. In 1930 he was president of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Ramaley's untiring energy and calm judgment brought to him many university duties, as is attested to by the following enumeration of such activities: acting president of the university in 1902; acting dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1917 to 1919; acting dean of the Graduate School in 1929, and from 1932 to 1934; editor of the *University of Colorado Studies* from its establishment in 1902 until his death; for twenty years sec-

retary of the Arts and Sciences Faculty; chairman of the Council of Honors; a member of the Council on Research; and for many years chairman of the Committee on the Sophomore English Test. In spite of his many university and scientific activities, he was faithful as a citizen of

the community, taking part in all worthwhile affairs, and for many years a member of the Boulder school board.

Professor Ramaley is survived by his wife, Ethel Jackson Ramaley, and four sons, Edward, David, John, and Francis.

W. W. ROBBINS