

John E. Potzger, President 1954

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**Dr. John E. Potzger, President**

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## DR. JOHN E. POTZGER

(See outside front cover)

John E. Potzger was born in Presque Isle County, Michigan. His high school and the first years of his college education were obtained as a boarding student at Addison (Illinois) Teachers College. For twenty years he taught in a Luthern grade school in Indianapolis, during which period he studied piano at the Ithaca Conservatory for two summers and conducted a private piano studio for about fifteen years. Evening classes and summer work at Butler, Indiana, and Chicago Universities led to his receiving the A. B. degree from Butler in 1927, and the M. A. degree in 1931. The summer of 1931 was spent at the Biological Station of the University of Michigan, where he worked with Dr. Frank C. Gates. His interest in ecology dates back to that summer at Douglas Lake, as well as to work with Dr. Stanley Cain at Indiana University, where he received his Ph. D. degree in botany in 1932. He joined the staff of the Botany Department at Butler University in 1932, and after the death of Dr. Ray C. Friesner in 1953 he assumed the responsibilities of the headship of that department as well as the supervision of the **Butler University Botanical Studies**.

In addition to his teaching career, Dr. Potzger has been at the Grout Laboratory, Newfane, Vermont, and in 1940 he was field botanist at the University of Wisconsin Biological Station. He and Mrs. Potzger have collaborated in several ecological studies and in the preparation of nature work books for children in the grades and in junior high school. He is the author of six such books on trees, birds, and insects, and he considers these his contribution toward stimulating interest in biology among the rising generation. Dr. Potzger was president of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers in 1948, and for ten years has been on the editorial staff of their journal, **School Science and Mathematics**. For six summers, he was special lecturer in ecology at the Purdue University Conservation Camp.

While some of Dr. Potzger's research interests are still devoted to forest sociology, his major effort during the past ten years has been given to pollen analysis and postglacial forest history. The past two summers have been spent in pollen work in the Province of Quebec as one of the summer research group at the Mt. Tremblant Biological Station in 1952 and as a member of a bog-boring expedition of the Service de Biogéographie of the University of Montreal and the Fish and Game Department of the Province of Quebec in 1953. At various other intervals he has held grants from the Indiana Academy of Science and from the American Philosophical Society in support of his field studies in the Minnesota Lake Region, the Quetico-Superior Memorial Forest, Isle Royale, the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, and in Quebec. His publications are numerous and varied. He is a member of several honorary and professional organizations.