

WILLARD W. EGGLESTON, AN APPRECIATION.

BY HEBER W. YOUNGKEN.

WILLARD WEBSTER EGGLESTON was born at Pittsfield, Vt., March 28, 1863. He received his early education in the public schools of Rutland, Vt., and later entered Dartmouth College from which he graduated with the degree of B.S. in 1891. After graduation from Dartmouth, he practiced civil engineering at Rutland, Vt., until 1907, when he became interested in botany and entered the employ of the New York Botanical Garden. In 1907 he received a research scholarship at that institution which he held until 1909. From 1908 to 1909 he also served as botanical assistant at the U. S. National Museum. In 1910 he was appointed assistant botanist in the Forest Service and Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington. His initial work there was that of investigating stock poisoning by plants on the National Forest Ranges. He was particularly fitted for this work, having been engaged for 15 years or more in collecting and determining plants of this country. For many years he was active in surveying grazing areas in the western part of the United States and in collecting and listing the species of *Cosmos* plants found in those areas, specimens of which numbering several thousand having been deposited by him in the U. S. National Herbarium, The New York Botanical Garden and in The Gray Herbarium of Harvard University.

About 15 years ago Mr. Eggleston became actively interested in the geographical distribution of medicinal plants and, in recognition of his work in this field, was in 1927 elected a member of the Committee on Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council. He served this committee very faithfully until the end, collecting data in many sections of the United States for its Census on Medicinal Plants.

In 1926 Mr. Eggleston joined the Plant Science Seminar and not only became a regular member attending most of its meetings but participated most helpfully on many of its field trips. His eagerness to share his vast store of information on the plants in regions first visited by most of the Seminar members and his genial personality will be remembered by all who attended the Seminar meetings with him. He was especially interested in the genus *Crataegus* in which group he was a recognized authority. He revised the monograph on *Crataegus* in the last edition of Gray's "Manual of Botany."

Mr. Eggleston was a member of the Botanical Society of America, The Torrey Botanical Club, The Washington Botanical and Biological Societies, The New England Botanical Club, The Appalachian Mountain Club and The Vermont Botanical Club, serving as vice-president of the last from 1912 to 1914. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Washington, D. C., and Bronx Lodge I. O. O. F. of New York City. He has published a number of articles on early botanists and botanical explorations in the United States among which may be mentioned "The Early Botanists of the Green Mountains, with an Account of C. C. Frost's Visit to Mt. Mansfield and Smuggler's Notch," "Dr. Ezra Brainerd," "Dr. Josiah Whitney Barstow," "Alphonso Wood's Description of Willoughby Lake and Its Flora," and "Charles C. Frost's Trip to Willoughby Mountain."

Mr. Eggleston's chief hobby and interest was in the field of systematic botany. He was very much at home in the field, woodland and swamp, and with his collections, a very keen observer of the features of plants, not given to publishing many of his observations, but always generous in recounting his experiences to others.

For the past several years he suffered frequent illnesses, the last of which followed shortly after returning from a collecting trip in New York and Northern New Jersey for the Committee on Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany of the National Research Council. He died at his home in Washington, D. C., on November 25, 1935, and was interred in Rock Hill Cemetery, Foxboro, Mass. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Alma L. Eggleston.

Dr. Eggleston's passing on is a distinct loss to the Seminar which he loved and to which he gave considerable of his time and energy. His companionship will be sadly missed by our members especially on the field trips where, on many an occasion, he added materially to the enjoyment and profit of the outing.
