April 20, 1932
Hotel Fort Shelby
Dr. William McPherson
"The Synthetic Methods of Nature"
OHIO STATE NIGHT

In view of the fact that the speaker for April 20 is Dr. Wm. McPherson, this meeting has been designated as Ohio State Night and a special effort will be made to have a good representation of O. S. U. men on hand to greet our distinguished guest from the Buckeye State University.

Dr. McPherson, inadvertently or otherwise, failed to inform us of the place and date of his birth or to give the details of his early life. He holds the degrees of B. Sc. and D. Sc. from Ohio State, Ph. D. from University of Chicago and LL.D. from Wittenberg College.

Dr. McPherson has an uninterrupted tenure of service of 38 years standing at Ohio State. He was head of the Department of Chemistry from 1894 to 1928, and has been director of the Graduate school since 1911, in addition to serving as Acting President of the University in 1924. In addition to these activities he has found time for active participation in various scientific societies. He is a member of the A. A. A. S., serving as Vice-President, Section C, 1908-09; has served successively as A. C. S. representative on the National Research Council, Counsellor-at-Large, member of the Executive Committee and President in 1920. Dr. McPherson also holds membership in the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft and the Ohio Academy of Science. During 1917-18 he served as Lieut. Col. in the C. W. S.

While best known as the senior author of McPherson and Henderson’s series of texts on general chemistry, Professor McPherson has devoted considerable time to studying the structure of organic compounds.

Dr. McPherson will address the Local Section on “The Synthetic Methods of Nature.” He will be introduced by Dr. F. O. Clements, O. S. U., ’39, Asst. Dir. of the General Motors Research Laboratories.

While it is desired to have every Ohio State member of the Section attend this meeting it is sincerely hoped that everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to honor one of America’s ablest scientists.

McPHERSON WELCOMERS

I want every man who admires and respects Dr. McPherson—that already assures me a large group—to come out to the McPherson meeting. Start now—lay aside a few pennies a week—that gives you just enough for dinner and hat check. You cannot become acquainted with your fellow men unless you break bread with them. It’s worth it, fellows—come on out.

Every Ohio State man who will send in his dinner reservation please mark Ohio State on the card. We want this meeting to be the best yet. Michigan Night was a success. Last year, Ohio State Night went over fine. Dr. Withrow enjoyed it. If you come out to greet Dr. McPherson as you came to greet Dr. Withrow we know that you will bring him a large measure of genuine enjoyment.

(E. L.)

DR. GORDON DISCUSSES CHEMICAL EDUCATION

That the local educators of future chemists are “on the job” was made evident when they packed the ballroom to hear Dr. Neil E. Gordon, Editor of the Journal of Chemical Education, and head of the Department of Chemical Education at Johns Hopkins University, tell how they did it at Hopkins.

Johns Hopkins has always been rec-
In the Ohio State University graduate work has been conducted in a limited way almost from the time of the foundation of the University. In 1911 the work had grown to proportions that warranted the organization of a separate Graduate School. A Graduate Council composed of the Dean of the School and 12 members selected from the instructional force of the University are in charge. Since the original formation two additional members have been added to the Council, one selected from each of the other two state supported universities, namely, Ohio and Miami University.

The Graduate School had a gradual growth from the time of its foundation until the time the United States entered the great war. During this time, the attendance at all graduate schools was greatly diminished, but now it is returning to the normal figure. The following table gives the number of degrees granted by the Graduate School since its organization.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>1912</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>1914</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The Graduate School is now a constituent part of all American universities.

WILLIAM MCPHERSON, Dean
Dean McPherson Has Been Teaching Chemistry for 42 Years.

Many business and professional men retire when they reach the age of 60 or 65; other continue at their tasks, which they may consider undone. This is the fourth of a series of articles about Columbus men who are "Still Hitting the Ball," though they are well along in years.—The Editor.

The old grads of the Ohio State University Chemistry Department will flock to Columbus this week-end for two reasons:

No. 1: To see Ohio State battle Michigan.

No. 2: To pay tribute to the man who more than anyone else helped build the department into one of the best in the country—William McPherson, professor of chemistry and dean of the graduate school.

Of him an old grad recently wrote:

"The story of the Department of Chemistry and the Graduate School at Ohio State University is largely the life work of William McPherson."

At a reunion at the Faculty Club tomorrow evening, the grateful alumni will present to the department a portrait of their old professor from the brush of the uni-

Alumni to Honor Head Of Graduate School Tomorrow Night.

taught chemistry and—of all things—Latin. The Toledo school had no laboratory and remembering his own experience, he promptly rigged up one. He came back to Ohio State in 1883 as assistant professor in chemistry and he's been here ever since. From 1895 to 1897 he was associate professor. Then he was made professor and head of the department. A former pupil, Professor "Billy" Evans succeeded him as chairman of the department in 1928.

In War Service.

During the World War, when the War Department was in a dither about the need for poison gas, Dean McPherson was commissioned a major as a chemical adviser to the Trench Warfare Section of the Ordnance Department. Later he was made a lieutenant colonel in the Chemical Warfare Service. His job was to speed up the production of chlorine, bromine, fosgene and mustard gases in the commercial plants.

Later in the war, he visited gas plants in England and France. He was at a plant near Chester, Eng., when news of the armistice came.

On travels abroad, Dean McPherson has visited all the outstanding laboratories in Europe.

"Before the war, Europe was
In the late '50s when Dean McPherson was on the Athletic Board, nobody off the campus paid much attention to the fun the university athletes were having.

'I remember,' says Dean McPherson, 'when I used to watch the street cars come up to the campus on Saturday afternoons to see if anybody would get off and come over to see our games. Sometimes someone did get off.'

Nearly 70,000 spectators are expected to watch the Michigan game Saturday.

A Grandstand for 200

The athletic board thought it was going great guns when it finally built a grandstand seating 200 persons. George B. Kaufman, the pharmacist, donated the money on condition that the university charge admission, so it could repay him.

The board mulled over for a bit and then decided to take the revolutionary step of charging admission. The grandstand was paid for in a few years. "Athletic contests were pretty bitter those days," Dean McPherson recalls. "I remember the hard feeling engendered between Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio State by the football games. Somebody had an inspiration that changed all that. The innovation consisted of having the Ohio State roots give the Wesleyan yells as the Wesleyan players came on the field. That innovation worked magic and brought a different feeling between the schools."

Dean McPherson's start in life as a farm boy and his early athletics have sufficed to carry him through to 70 with a robust constitution. He takes no exercises, nor is he a crank about his food. He has only two hobbies, the Graduate School and riding out into the country in his automobile on Sunday.

'His' Graduate School

Around the campus they call it "McPherson's Graduate School." He organized it in 1911. Enrollment took a big spurt after the World War as the demand for specialists increased. Now some 2500 students are enrolled. Because of the worldwide use of three chemistry textbooks on which Dean McPherson has collaborated, students are attracted to this Graduate School from all over the world.

On commencement day after each quarter, the dean has a luncheon for the new Ph. D.'s. Sometimes he has as many as 40 at the table. More than 1,500,000 students in America and in foreign countries have purchased textbooks written by Dean McPherson in collaboration with Professor William E. Henderson. They are especially popular in China where they have been translated into the Chinese language.

Last year, 500 of the 800 high schools in Ohio teaching chemistry used the McPherson-Henderson book, "Chemistry for Today." In addition, 3000 high schools outside of Ohio used it. Hundreds of colleges use the advanced works, "An Elementary Study of Chemistry" and "A Course in General Chemistry." A world-wide reputation for the authors has resulted from this wide-spread sale.

Gives Scholarship Cup

Since 1915, professional fraternities have been competing for the McPherson cup offered to the fraternity with the highest collective scholarship grade. Alpha Zeta, agricultural fraternity, annexed it permanently by winning it for the third time two years ago. This put the dean into the position of having to "dig down" for a new cup when Alpha Psi, veterinary fraternity, came through to victory this year.

An insidious start marked Dean McPherson's chemistry career. He started the course in high school, but since there was no laboratory, he soon lost interest and dropped the course, substituting Greek. When he came to Ohio State and learned there was a laboratory, he took up chemistry again.

After his graduation in 1887, he was an instructor at the university for two years, then went to Toledo High School where he ahead of us in research, but now we are on a par with them," he says.

The Ohio State University Chemistry Department, into which Dean McPherson has poured so much enthusiasm for so many years, recently was selected by a national committee of 110 chemists as one of the 16 best in America.

An 'Inspired Teacher'

Dean McPherson is a big man, robust, ruddy, smokes a pipe, is affable and has no professorial mannerisms.

His associates in the chemistry department speak of him as an inspired teacher. A former student, discussing his old teacher, waxed enthusiastic over the knack he has of interpreting chemistry lore in common terms.

Life gets you thinking of your automobile or your household chemicals in relation to their chemical origin," this old grad told me.

A sophomore put it more succinctly: "You'll never go to sleep while Professor McPherson's lecturing."

Among the old-timers who will be on hand when the alumni pay tribute to Dean McPherson tomorrow night will be his old comrades in the chemistry department: Professor William Lloyd "Billy" Evans, chairman of the department, who has been there for 29 years; Professor Cecil E. Board, 27 years, and Professor Charles W. Foulk, 26 years.

Next: George B. Okey.
# Personal Information

**Name:** McPherson

**Home Address:** 196 16th Avenue

**City:** Columbus

**State:** Ohio

**County:** Franklin

**Present Occupation or Profession:** Teacher

**Business Address:** Ohio State University

**City:** Columbus, Ohio

**Date of Birth:** July 2nd, 1864

**Place of Birth:** Xenia, Ohio

**Race:** White

**States:** Teacher

**Father's Name:** William McPherson

**Mother's Maiden Name:** Mary Ann Bader

**Religious Affiliations:** Congregational

**Are You Married?** Yes

**Date:** 1883; 1893

**Wife's Maiden Name:** Lucretia Heston

**Children:** Mary Browning Henderson

**or Husband's Name:**

**Children's Birth Dates:**

- William Heston McPherson: Oct. 18, 1902

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# University Record

**Where Were You Prepared for College?**

- Xenia, Ohio, High School
- 1882: Preparatory Dept.
- 1883: University

**Date of Entrance to University:**

**Date of Leaving or Graduation:**

**Degrees:**

- Bachelor Degree: B.S. 1887
- Advanced degree in course, or honorary degree, from Ohio State University:
  - Ohio State Univ.: M.Sc. 1890
  - Ohio State Univ.: D.Sc. 1899
  - Univ. of Chicago: Ph.D. 1899
  - Wittenberg College: L.L.D. 1927

**Undergraduate Honors and Offices Held:**

- Have forgotten them - if I ever had any - I recall that I could outrun and out jump anyone in the University

**Membership in Social Fraternity or Sorority:**

- Phi Delta Theta

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**Names and Addresses of Relatives Who Have Attended the University:**

- William Heston McPherson, Cleveland, Ohio
- Dr. Clarence G. McPherson, Xenia, Ohio
- Gertrude May McPherson, Columbus, Ohio
War Record

Spanish-American and World War

Date of Enlistment and Place: July 1917 Washington, D.C.

Date and Place of Discharge: November 1918

Branch of Service: Ordnance-Chemical Warfare

Rank or Private: Captain

Promoted to Major and then to Lieutenant Colonel

Where Did You Serve: Edgewood Arsenal

Represented Chemical Warfare Service at Paris, London and Tours

Honors and Citations:

Civilian Service:

Other Military or Air Service:

Other Items of Interest:

Give Name and Address of Two Persons Who Will Always Have Your Correct Address:

Mrs. William McPherson
198 16th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio.

Sacy. Ohio State University Association, Ohio State Univ.
Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE: If above space is not adequate please use an extra sheet.

(OVER)
Name: McPherson
First Name: William
Last Name: McPherson
Maiden Name: None

Address: 186 Sixteenth Avenue
City: Xenia
State: Ohio
Telephone: WA 1579

Position and Rank: Acting President
Institution: The Ohio State University
Department: Administration

Date of Birth: July 2, 1864
Place of Birth: Xenia, Green County, Ohio
Father's Name in Full: William McPherson
Mother's Maiden Name: Mary Rader

Religious Affiliation: Congregational
Are You Married?: Yes
Wife's or Husband's Name: Lucretia Heston

Are You Married?: Yes
Wife's or Husband's Name: Mary Browning Henderson

Date: June 21, 1893

Are You Married?: Yes
Wife's or Husband's Name: Lucretia Heston

Date: April 19, 1925

Family Members:
- William Heston McPherson: October 18, 1902
- Gertrude May McPherson: December 1, 1906

Where Were You Prepared for College?: High School
In City: Xenia, Ohio

College or University: Ohio State
Degree: M. Sc.
Year: 1890

College or University: Ohio State
Degree: D. Sc.
Year: 1895

College or University: University of Chicago
Degree: Ph. D.
Year: 1899

College or University: Wittenberg College
Degree: LL. D.
Year: 1927

Honorary Fraternities and Societies: Phi Beta, Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma

Undergraduate Honors and Offices Held: I held several as an undergraduate student but it is so long ago that I cannot give exact information.

Membership in Social Fraternity or Sorority: Phi Delta Theta
Acting President of the University July 1, 1938

1917-19

Military Service, with dates: 1917-19

Branch of Service: Trench Warfare Service

Rank: Captain promoted to Major promoted Lieutenant Colonel

Where Did You Serve: Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Md.; and service in France and England

Hobbies: Doing my job the best I know how

Favortie recreation or sport:

Office, Director, or Trustee of following business or professional institutions (give title and city):

Other information (include homes received in art, literature, music, sport, and miscellaneous information):

Member Following Organizations:

Service clubs:

Civil:

Fraternal:

Church:

Charitable:

Social:

Local Trade Assn.:

National Trade Assn.:

Educational, Scientific:


A.A.A.S. Sec. C Vice-Pres. 1908-09; 1915-16

Other information (include homes received in art, literature, music, sport, and miscellaneous information):

Starred in American Men of Science

Does University Department of Photography have a photograph of you, taken in last five years? Yes.

If not:

1. It will be greatly appreciated if you will send the News Bureau an unmounted glossy photo to be retained in the files.

2. Are you willing to have a photo made for us by the Photographic Department in its studio at no expense to you? (If you answer affirmatively to No. 2, we will endeavor to arrange the appointment and notify you).
**Personal Information**

- **Home Address**: 198, 16th Ave
- **Town**: Columbus
- **State**: Ohio
- **Present Occupation or Profession**: President's Office

**Business Address**: The Ohio State University

- **Date of Birth**: July 2nd, 1884
- **Place of Birth**: Near Xenia, Ohio
- **Race**: White
- **Religious Affiliation**: Congregationalist

**University Record**

- **High School**: Xenia, Ohio
- **Date of Entrance to University**: Sept. 1887
- **Date of Leaving or Graduation**: 1897

- **Bachelor Degrees**
  - **Degree**: B. S.
  - **Date**: 1897

- **Advanced Degrees in Course or Honorary Degrees, from Ohio State or Other Colleges or Universities. Please specify, stating institutions and dates**:

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<th>College or University</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1897</td>
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<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>LL.M.</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>M. D.</td>
<td>1940</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- **Undergraduate Honors and Offices Held**

  * Held several but it means many years ago, I have forgotten.

- **Membership in Social Fraternity or Sorority**

  * Phi Delta Theta

- **Honorary Fraternities and Societies (undergraduate)**

- **Names and Addresses of Relatives Who Have Attended the University**

  - William H. McPherson, 1902
  - Gertrude May McPherson, 1906
War Record
Spanish-American and World War
Date of Enlistment and Place: Washington, D.C., 1917
Date and Place of Discharge: "/\ - 1918
Branch of Service: Chemical Warfare
Officer or Private: Private
Promotions: Captain - Major - Lieut. Colonel
Where Did You Serve:
Washington, Baltimore - Overseas

Honors and Citations:

Civilian Service:

Other Military or Air Service:

Other Items of Interest:

IMPORTANT
Give Name and Address of Two Persons Who Will Always Have Your Correct Address:

Mrs. William W. M. Thomson
195-16th Ave. - Columbus, O.

[Signature]
William W. M. Thomson
Oberlin College, Oberlin, O.
June Graduates To Be Received By McPherson

1700 Seniors File Applications for Degrees

Marking the renewal of a graduation custom dropped in recent years, the president's reception for seniors and their parents will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, June 12, in the Administration Building.

Admission may be procured only by cards which should be obtained from the office of Dean of Men Joseph A. Park before June 1.

The University orchestra will present a concert after the reception, immediately followed by formal commencement exercises.

1700 Applications

Nearly 1700 students have applied for degrees, Professor Louis H. Burgwald, department of dairy technology and chairman of the commencement committee, stated today. Commencement services will take place at 5:30 p.m. June 12 in the Stadium, for those whose degrees are approved by June 5.

New feature of this year's program is the senior swing out which supplants a traditional class breakfast and will highlight the class supper at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 11, on the Oval.

Class day exercises held in front of the Main Library will conclude the supper.

Baccalaureate

At the baccalaureate services starting at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 11, in the Physical Education Building, Dr. M. H. Lichten, pastor of the First Congregational Church, will speak. A choral response to the prayer sung by a University octet will supplement his address.

Members of the Commencement committee are: Professor Burgwald, chairman; Dean of Men Joseph A. Park; John W. Price, department of zoology; Carl E. Stiehl, business manager of the University; Edith D. Cockins, registrar; Professor Eugene J. Weigel, department of music; Paul Ellenman, service department, and Paul A. Barry, department of military science.
A NEW opponent helps to inaugurate a new season today in Ohio Stadium. The University extends greetings and best wishes to the University of Missouri as it enters the ever widening ranks of Ohio State's friendly opponents on the gridiron.

We offer a sincere welcome also to the many thousands of Ohio high school students with us today for the annual High School Day. It is our hope that the day's experiences will help them in their plans for a higher education—whatever college or university they may decide to attend.

To the Ohio State football squad and coaching staff the University community offers its best wishes for a successful season—a season characterized by those high standards of good sportsmanship for which the Western Conference has become so well known.

William M. Robinson
Acting President.
McPherson To Receive Honor Degree

Will Be Made Doctor of Laws by University

Dr. William McPherson, president emeritus, will receive the honorary degree doctor of laws at the University’s commencement exercises June 10, it is announced by President Bevis.

Dr. McPherson’s recognition, the only honorary degree to be awarded by Ohio State this spring, has been approved by the University Faculty and the Board of Trustees.

A native of Xenia, Dr. McPherson has been identified with Ohio State continuously since 1892. In that year he became an assistant in chemistry. He advanced through the ranks in the chemistry department to a full professorship. In 1911 he was made dean of the Graduate School. He served in that position until 1936 when he retired with the rank of dean emeritus, only to be recalled immediately as acting dean pending the selection of his successor.

RETURNS TO DUTY

In 1937 he was relieved of the acting deanship, only to be recalled to active duty July 1, 1938, as acting president, when Dr. George W. Rightmire relinquished his responsibilities as president.

Dr. McPherson continued as acting president until February 1 of this year when Dr. Bevis assumed his responsibilities.

The president emeritus has three Ohio State degrees, the bachelor’s in 1897, the master’s in 1899, and the doctor of science in 1896. In 1927 he received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago, and in 1927 Wittenberg College, honored him with the doctor of laws degree.

For five years, from 1897 to 1892, he was instructor in physics, chemistry, and Latin at Toledo high school. He is a past president of the American Chemical Society and a past vice president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During the World War he had the rank of lieutenant colonel in the chemical warfare service.
FROM OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS BUREAU

For Personality Parade, Citizen

And now for the personality sketch this week

What do you mean, "retirement"?

Dr. William McPherson, president emeritus of Ohio State University, smiles when the word is mentioned. He's been retired—only to be called back each time to a busier job than he had before.

Back in 1936 he completed 25 years as dean of the Graduate School and retired with the rank of dean emeritus.

The university couldn't decide on a successor for the dean's position immediately, so the dean emeritus was recalled as acting dean.

In 1937 Dr. McPherson at last was relieved of the dean's responsibilities. But his retirement was brief—the following year, on the resignation of Dr. George W. Rightmire, McPherson was made acting president.

When the board of trustees decided early this year on Dr. Howard L. Bevis as the new president, Dr. McPherson thought that the arrival of the new president February 1 really would mean that rest and opportunity for writing and research he had been anticipating.

But the university thought otherwise. Dr. McPherson was made chairman of the committee to arrange the presidential inauguration, which will be held next Thursday and Friday.

For months now Dr. McPherson has taken the leading in working out all the details for these ceremonies—a job all the more difficult because Ohio State had never had a formal inauguration before. But now he has the job "whipped", and all the ceremonies are expected to go off smoothly.

Dr. McPhersson, a native of Xenia, is an Ohio State alumnus, with the master's and doctor's degrees from that university.
He went on to Chicago for the doctor of philosophy degree. In recent years he has been awarded honorary doctor’s degrees by Wittenberg and Ohio State.

As an undergraduate at Ohio State, Dr. McPherson held numerous honors but he modestly says "it is so long ago that I cannot give exact information about them.

In 1929-30 he was president of the American Chemical Society—an honor which has now come again to Ohio State in the designation of Dr. William Lloyd Evans as president-elect of this society.

He has long been active in the work of First Congregational Church, and at present is president of its board of trustees.

Dr. McPherson gives only one hobby—"doing my job the best I know how"—and associates on the campus agree that he does just that on every assignment.

#
Nine years older than the institution with which he has been intimately associated for as long as some men live, Dr. William McPherson has an administrative record unparalleled at Ohio State University, perhaps unique in the nation.

Now Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School and Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Dr. McPherson has twice served as acting president of the University, organized and headed its Graduate School for a quarter of a century, for 45 years was a member of the teaching staff of the department of chemistry and for 40 years its chairman.

Born on a farm near Xenia, O., July 2, 1864, Dr. McPherson came to Ohio State in 1883, just ten years after the University had opened its doors. The Xenia farm boy in his first few years at the University was one of its first athletic stars. Able to "outrun and outjump anyone else on the campus", in his second year at state McPherson won the Franklin Prize, major award given for the first class day athletic contest.

After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1887 when a member of the 10th graduating class of Ohio State, McPherson moved to Toledo to accept a position teaching chemistry and Latin in the Toledo High School. He returned to the University to take his master's degree in 1890, and two years later, while studying for a doctorate, joined the staff of the chemistry department as a student assistant. Following several promotions in rank, in 1897 he became full professor of chemistry in charge of the department, a position which he held until 1937. During that time he helped raise Ohio State's chemistry department to one of the top-ranking units of its kind in the nation.
Organizing the Graduate School at Ohio State in 1911, Dr. McPherson became its first dean and continued to guide the school until 1935, when he announced his retirement at the age of 71. However, because the University officials were unable to decide on a successor for the position immediately, the dean emeritus was recalled as acting dean. It was the first of three unsuccessful retirement attempts tried by Dr. McPherson.

In 1937, he was at last relieved of the dean's responsibilities, but his retirement was brief. Upon the resignation of Dr. George W. Rightmire, Dr. McPherson was made acting president of the University. He had served once previously in that capacity, on the retirement of Dr. William Oxley Thompson, and at that time, in 1924, had the unusual distinction of being simultaneously professor of chemistry, dean of the graduate school and acting president of Ohio State.

In 1939, when the Board of Trustees named Dr. Howard L. Bevis as the seventh president of the University, Dr. McPherson thought that the arrival of the new head on February 1 would mean the rest and opportunity for writing and research he had long anticipated. It did—but not until after the Ohio State veteran, then appointed chairman of the presidential inauguration, had directed the thousand and one details involved in conducting the University's first formal inaugural ceremonies.

In addition to the three degrees granted by Ohio State University, Dr. McPherson holds a Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago and honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Wittenberg and Ohio State.

He is the author of numerous articles in various scientific and educational journals, and with W. E. Henderson, Ohio State professor emeritus of chemistry, has written numerous chemistry textbooks which are year-round best sellers in the textbook field. More than 1,500,000 students throughout the world have purchased the Henderson-McPherson texts,
and a world-wide reputation has resulted for the authors.

For many years Dr. McPherson has maintained that his one hobby is "doing my job the best I know how." That philosophy is perhaps the explanation for the excellence of his service record in World War I, as well as of his academic record. During the first world conflict, when the War Department felt the need for greater knowledge of poison gas, McPherson was commissioned a major as a chemical adviser to the Trench Warfare section of the Ordnance Department. Later he became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Chemical Warfare Service, and did much to speed up production of Chlorine, Bromine, Fosgine, and mustard gases in the commercial plants.

Dr. McPherson now lives at 198 Sixteenth Avenue, with his wife, the former Mary Browning Henderson, whom he married in 1925. His first wife, the former Lucretia Heston, died in 1923. Dr. McPherson's two children are William Heston McPherson, 49, a member of the Labor Relations Institute and professor of economics at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.; and Mrs. Malcolm P. Mouat, 45, of Janesville, Wisconsin. He has 5 grandchildren.

###
In the death of Dr. William McPherson, the campus has lost a man of unstinting service to the Ohio State University. Even after retirement, he was called upon three times to resume his long career as an administrator.

As an educator in the field of chemistry, he was among the nation's leaders. He did much to bring the University's department of chemistry into national prominence.

As Dean of the Graduate School, he laid and established the foundations of that important part of the University.

As Acting President on two occasions, he carried on the work of the University in masterly fashion.

For these accomplishments and for his kindly and understanding nature, Dr. McPherson will be keenly missed by thousands of alumni, his friends and his associates.
Dr. William McPherson, 87, died early Tuesday at the Harding Sanitarium following a prolonged illness. (October 7, 1966)

The body was removed to the Schoedinger Funeral Home. The family requests the omission of flowers. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday in the First Congregational Church, with the Rev. Dr. Boynton Merrill, pastor, in charge. Burial will be in the Greenlawn Cemetery.
William McPherson, a native of Ohio and identified with The Ohio State University during a long academic career, died on October 2, 1951, after protracted illness. With his passing at the age of 87 years, the University has lost a loyal member of its family who took a prominent part in the development of the University in the first third of the century.

Professor McPherson entered the Preparatory Department of the University in 1882 and the college freshman class in 1883. He received the Bachelor of Science degree in 1887, as a member of the tenth graduating class of the University. The graduate degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Science were conferred on him by the University in 1890 and 1895. Four years later, he was granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree by the University of Chicago. The honorary degree Doctor of Laws was bestowed on him by Wittenberg College in 1927 and by his alma mater in 1940.

Chemistry was the field of science that commanded Professor McPherson's attention in teaching and research. He was the co-author with Professor William E. Henderson of a series of textbooks in chemistry which won wide acclaim. The excellence of these books is attested by their acceptance as standard college texts in chemistry for over 30 years and through numerous revisions. Professor McPherson was active in scientific societies and took special interest in the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1929, American chemists conferred on him their highest honor, the
presidency of the American Chemical Society. During World War I, he served as an officer in the Ordnance Department and Chemical Warfare Service, contributing his knowledge to the chemical problems of trench warfare and the production of poisonous gases.

Concurrent with his educational and scientific interests were Professor McPherson's administrative activities in the University. He rose rapidly from the position of Assistant in the Department of Chemistry in 1892 to Professor and Chairman of the department in 1897; these appointments he held until his retirement in 1937. He was named the first Dean of the Graduate School when it was organized in 1911 and served in this capacity until 1937. Twice he was called into the administration of the University as Acting President, in 1924 upon the retirement of President Thompson and for two years after President Rightmire's retirement in 1938. Upon his own retirement effective in 1940, Professor McPherson had the distinction of holding the titles of Emeritus Professor, Emeritus Dean and Emeritus President.

Through the many years of Professor McPherson's academic career, he was a devoted servant to the educational and research interests of The Ohio State University. He gave generously of his time, energy and talent. It was in the period of Professor McPherson's leadership that the University grew educationally and physically, and took its place among the great universities of the country.

Professor McPherson had a warm and genial personality that endeared him to his many friends and associates. The problems of students and faculty members were sympathetically heard and his assistance was generously given. He will long be re-
membered for his personal attributes of kindliness and nobleness of character.

The Ohio State University in the loss of a distinguished son recognizes the strength he has given his alma mater through his long career of loyal service to the educational development of the institution.
The President now reported to the Board the death of President Emeritus William McPherson and, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, a copy of the following resolution expressing on behalf of the University the sorrow and sympathy of the Board has been furnished to the family of the deceased.

The Board of Trustees expresses its deep sorrow at the death on October 2, 1951, of William McPherson, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School, and President Emeritus of the University. With his passing at the age of 87 years, the University has lost a loyal member of its family who took a prominent part in the development of the University in the first third of this century.

Professor McPherson was born at Xenia, Ohio, on July 2, 1864. He entered the Preparatory Department of the University in 1882 and the college freshman class in 1883, and received the Bachelor of Science degree in 1887, as a member of the tenth graduating class of the University. The graduate degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Science were conferred on him by the University in 1890 and 1896. Four years later, he was granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree by the University of Chicago. The honorary degree Doctor of Laws was bestowed on him by Wittenberg College in 1927 and by his alma mater in 1946.

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The Ohio State University in the loss of a distinguished son recognizes the strength he has given his alma mater through his long career of loyal service to the educational development of the institution.

On behalf of the entire University, the Board of Trustees expresses to the family its deep sympathy and sense of understanding in its loss. It is directed that this resolution be inscribed upon the minutes of the Board.

Therupon the Board adjourned to meet Monday, November 12, 1951, at 9:30 a.m. at the University.

Attest:

(Signed) CARL E. STEELE
(Signed) CARLTON S. DARGUSCH,
Secretary
Chairman

10-15-51
Dear Bill:

Inside is a photo of the McPherson portrait that hangs in Chemistry Library. Hope you can use this or find something at the Univ. photographer's. I like your story for Friday, Nov. 21st. Dr. Evans is going to read the copy (in this reprint) at the ceremony — and so does not want us to use any of his material — naturally.

Thanks a lot!

I shall be out of town Mon., Tues. and Wed. of next week. Please call Dr. C.E. Bond if you need to talk over anything. He will provide some ceremony notes.

By William Lloyd Evans
WILLIAM McPHERSON

July 2, 1864—October 2, 1951

BY WILLIAM LLOYD EVANS

Four miles southwest of Xenia, Ohio, at the end of a lane shaded by locust trees, stands the spacious farm-house where William McPherson was born on July 2nd, 1864. Regarding his ancestors, nothing is known that would have given an indication that he was to become an eminent teacher and a leader in academic circles.

His great-grandparents emigrated from Scotland at about the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The opening up of the so-called West animated his grandfather, John McPherson, to settle near Xenia, Ohio, at the time of his marriage to Margaret Hevling. Like all the hardy pioneers of that period, they traveled by covered wagon from the security of the East, in their case from Maryland, to set up a new home in the wilderness.

John McPherson began his career in Ohio as a chair-maker but later served also as the Postmaster and County Recorder. William’s father, for whom he was named, worked for several years as an apprentice and journeyman saddle maker before turning to farming in 1840, when he married Mary Ann Rader. The tenth child born of this marriage, arriving just before their twenty-fifth anniversary, was William McPherson.

His mother loved flowers and successfully enlisted the interest of the entire family in the cultivation of her immaculate flower-beds. Gardening remained one of the chief hobbies of her young son, William. To this interest must be added his enthusiasm for the cultivation of fruits. He inherited from his father an unusual measure of kindness. He always enjoyed people and, in later years, one of his favorite activities was the regular Saturday visit to the market where he talked with many of his friends among the farmer salesmen.

The chronicle of his youth is a fore-shadowing of much of his later character and achievement. Farm life was rigorous and there were daily chores both summer and winter. Thrift was necessary even in the use of firewood. There were no warm comfortable bedrooms, and the water in the wash stand pitcher was often frozen. The definition of the word chore in those days included tasks the measure of a man, but assigned to a boy. Supplying a continuous flow of the fuel and water for the household and the care of the live-stock were part of young William’s routine.

No gasoline conveyance carried him to the little red school house that still stands on the back corner of the farm and even now bears the McPherson name. Walking had objectives in those days. William learned systematic methods early in his efforts to complete his chores quickly enough to leave ample time for the preparation of his lessons.

It is said that men develop qualities of stamina and strength by reason of their difficulties. If so, those early years of this young boy helped to mould for him a strong body and a valiant spirit. Life on an Ohio farm also cultivated in William McPherson an at-homeness with Nature and with all kinds of people. His interest in growing things, whether utilitarian or beautiful remained always, and farm animals and orchardly continued to be of concern to him. A beautiful garden was an essential part of his living. Farm community life cultivated in him the quality of enjoying and understanding people, so that he possessed to a rare degree the ability to make others comfortable and at ease no matter what the occasion.

After completing the grade school, William attended the High School at Xenia, sometimes driving in the family buggy but usually riding the plow horse. Someone has said that the McPherson animals were all “well educated” for he recited his irregular verbs while milking the cows and feeding
the hogs. At any rate his lessons were well prepared for on the day of his high school commencement, the entire family, dressed in their Sunday clothes, went to town to hear their youngest member deliver the principal address as the class valedictorian.

Because of his outstanding record, his parents made it possible for William to enroll at The Ohio State University in the autumn quarter of 1883, just ten years after the university opened its doors. At that time, there was no organized athletics on the campus, but this young man from Greene County, with his superb physical endowment, soon became a leader in field sports. He excelled especially in running and in the broad jump. In his sophomore year, he won the Franklin Award given in the first Class Day athletic contest. Needless to say, his scholastic work was of the highest grade and it was recognized later by both the Societies of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

After graduating in 1887, he turned his attention to a teaching career. He accepted an instructorship in physics for the years 1887–1889, and in chemistry and Latin for 1889–1893 in the High School and the Manual Training School of Toledo, Ohio.

On June 21st, 1893, William McPherson married Miss Lucretia Heston of Toledo, Ohio. To them were born two children, William Heston, now of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations of the University of Illinois, and Gertrude May, now Mrs. Malcolm P. Mout, of Janesville, Wisconsin. Mrs. Lucretia McPherson died on August 23rd, 1923.

On April 18th, 1925, William McPherson married Miss Mary Browning Henderson, the sister of William E. Henderson. The McPherson home has always been a center of happy living, good conversation and gentle hospitality; children and young people were given special welcome and enjoyed Dr. McPherson's buoyant humor.

William McPherson, in 1892, received an invitation to return to The Ohio State University as an assistant to Prof. Sidney A. Norton who was then Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. The quality of the young teacher's work was soon rewarded. He was advanced to an assistant professorship in 1893; to an associate professorship in 1895; to a professorship in 1897. This early period and the years following were very momentous ones in those phases of chemistry that called for a greater understanding of the more fundamental physical aspects of the science than had hitherto been available. Laboratory work for students in first year chemistry as well as text books written in the light of the newer physical-chemical concepts became pressing necessities. William McPherson and his collaborator, William E. Henderson, addressed themselves to this challenging problem. Out of their combined effort these needs have been most successfully met.

Among some of his extra-mural contacts, Dr. McPherson served both the Ohio State Dairy and Food Commission as a collaborating chemist from 1907 to 1912, and in the same general capacity the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture from 1908 to 1917.

The growing emphasis on graduate education and the increase in the number of students desiring advanced study led to the establishment in 1911 of the Graduate School. Dr. McPherson was assigned the task of organizing this newly created division of the University and was appointed to be its first Dean. He continued in his office for twenty-six years, at which time he retired from his academic duties as the Emeritus Dean of the Graduate School. During his administration, the Graduate School grew from a registration of three hundred students in fifteen departments of instruction to an enrollment of thirty-three hundred students in fifty-six departments. All over the country there are former students who gratefully attest to the sympathetic interest and encouragement that they received from Dean McPherson. The faculty, too, bear witness to his stimulating leadership and his activity in securing funds for furthering research and scholarship.

On two different occasions, Dean McPherson was called upon to serve The Ohio State University as Acting President due to the retirement of William Oxley Thompson in 1924, and of George Washington Rightmire in 1938. In these critical periods, he administered the affairs of the Presidency with rare judgment and in a spirit of friendliness that won the confidence of the citizens of Ohio. At the conclusion of this service to the University, the Board of Trustees conferred upon Dean McPherson the title of President Emeritus of The Ohio State University.

In addition to the baccalaureate degree, B.Sc. in 1887, William McPherson received the degrees of Master of Science, M.Sc. in 1890 and Doctor of Science, D.Sc. in 1895 from The Ohio State University; Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1899; the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, LL.D. from Wittenberg College in 1907; and Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, LL.D. in 1940 from The Ohio State University.

When Dr. W. A. Noyes founded Chemical Abstracts, he invited Dr. Austin M. Patterson of Xenia, Ohio to join him as associate editor of this now journalistic enterprise of the American Chemical Society. When the latter succeeded to the editorship, family responsibilities and convenience of travel prompted him to approach Dr. McPherson on the matter of moving the Chemical Abstracts office from the University of Illinois to The Ohio State University. Realizing the advantage to the Faculty of having access to the large collection of periodicals, many of them rare, that Chemical Abstracts receives, and, too, evaluating the personal contribution that such men as Dr. Patterson, Mr. J. J. Miller and later Dr. E. J. Crane would make to The Ohio State University Chemistry family, Dr. McPherson immediately offered the facilities and the hospitality of the University to this new journal. The wisdom of his decision has proven of mutual advantage for forty-two years.

In regard to the American Chemical Society, William McPherson was one of its most enthusiastic supporters. He was very much aware of the value of its publications and of its organization into geographical sections that enabled chemists
throughout the country to follow the progress of the science. He was the first chairman of the Columbus, Ohio, Section which was founded in 1897. From the initial group of one hundred and five members, it has now grown to a membership of five hundred and ninety.

In the official structure of the American Chemical Society, Dr. McPherson served as one of its vice-presidents in 1909–1911; as councilor in 1923–1926; as member of the executive committee and president in 1930. He was one of the wise and far-seeing leaders who have contributed to the unprecedented growth and usefulness of the Society. He served as the representative of the American Chemical Society on the executive board of the National Research Council.

William McPherson, in 1917, was a member of the group that responded to the Nation's call for chemists, when it was learned that poison gas was being used as an instrument of warfare. He left his academic activities and proceeded to Washington, D. C., to serve in a civilian advisory capacity in the Trench Warfare Section of the United States Army. Later he was commissioned as a captain in the reserve Corps, from which he was called into active service on the staff of the head of this newly created branch of the military organization.

Captain McPherson was promoted to the rank of major in the National Army in January of 1918 and on July 13th, 1918 he received the rank of lieutenant-colonel in this new military service. He was made responsible for the relations existing between Edgewood Arsenal and the extra-mural chemical organizations upon which the Arsenal would depend for service and cooperation. In his line of duty, he was called upon to represent the United States Chemical Warfare Service in its contacts with the Inter-Allied Conference on Gas Investigations held in Paris. While on one of these important missions, the Armistice was signed. He returned to America on December 11th, 1918, but his duties compelled him to remain in the service until March 24th, 1919 when he received his honorable discharge from the United States Army. After this military interval, he returned to The Ohio State University to whose success he had consecrated his life.

The following years were filled with useful service; giving to the limit of his strength and time to the advancement of his Alma Mater and exerting in his scientific writing a strong and widespread influence in the training of young people.

After a prolonged illness, this very notable and distinguished career came to a close on the morning of October the second 1951, William McPherson was a man of many gifts, not least of them being a talent for friendship and a sincere interest in those whom he called friends. His ways of showing this could be verified by many who caught their inspiration from his lips and from his life. When his personal charm is added his ability as teacher and chemist and administrator, William McPherson will remain in the memory and hearts of those who knew him as a man of great stature.
"Elementary Treatise on Qualitative Analysis."
WILLIAM McPHERSON

Of all the alumni who have been on its faculty none, save possibly President George W. Rightmire, served the Ohio State University so long or so well as William McPherson, '87. From 1887 to 1892, he taught chemistry in Toledo's only high school. Earlier he was a force on the Ohio State campus from 1882-83, when he was a preparatory student, through his four years as a prominent undergraduate. In 1890 he earned his M.A. degree and in 1895 that of D.Sc. Four years later he won a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Dr. McPherson was born July 2, 1864 at Xenia and lived his entire life in Ohio. He joined the University's department of chemistry in 1892 and was its chairman for many years, rising through the ranks from assistant professor to professor. His special field was organic chemistry and students and colleagues alike regarded him as an outstanding teacher. He and Professor William E. Henderson, a colleague, were the authors of widely used high school and college textbooks in chemistry. These were standard for some thirty years and through numerous revisions.

As an undergraduate McPherson took an active part in the early beginnings of track athletics on the campus. At the June, 1885 Class Day exercises, he won four events and was second in a fifth. He took the broad jump with a leap of 17 feet 9 inches, and was first also in the high jump, the running hop, step and jump, and the standing broad jump. In the 2-mile "go-as-you-please" he was runner-up. These activities were held on the "east lawn," presumably part of the modern campus oval. After he joined the faculty he had a role in the campus athletic reorganization of 1897-98.

Apart from his outstanding teaching, three things stood out in Dr. McPherson's long career. One was his active service in World War I. Another was his long and significant tenure as dean of the Graduate School. The other was his unexpected
service, after retirement, as acting president of the University from July 1, 1938 to February 1, 1940 while it was looking for a successor to President Rightmire.

Dean McPherson was one of many faculty members on leave of absence for active duty in World War I. In particular, he was one of a group of Ohio State officers assigned from the campus to the Edgewood Arsenal, near Washington, D.C., in connection with the production of poison gas. He was in service twenty-one months, rising from captain (Ordnance) to lieutenant colonel (Chemical Warfare Service) between August, 1917 until his discharge in March, 1919. In November-December, 1918 he attended an international conference on gas investigations in Paris.

In June, 1911 Dr. McPherson was named the first permanent dean of the Graduate School. He held that post with distinction until his retirement in 1937. His outside activities included his active participation in the affairs of the American Chemical Society, of which he was president in 1929, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He was twice acting president of the University. The first time was briefly early in 1924 because of the illness of President William Oxley Thompson. For more than a year and a half after President George W. Rightmire left in 1938, Dr. McPherson came out of retirement to run the affairs of the University. Although seventy-four, he did so capably and without fuss or feathers. This was partly because of the confidence his colleagues had in him and partly because, fortunately, the University faced no major crises during that period.

At the time of this appointment, it was said that the Trustees did not notify him of what they had done but adjourned to go to commencement which was at 5 p.m. The newspapers promptly got word of the action and one telephoned him to get his photograph. He is said to have asked why and upon being informed remarked that no one told him about it. Oddly four Trustees voted for him, one against him and two
abstained, presumably because of his age. After President Howard L. Bevis relieved him February 1, 1940 the Trustees elected Dr. McPherson president emeritus. He died October 2, 1951 at the age of eighty-seven, after an over-all connection with the University extending over sixty-nine years.

In their memorial to him, adopted October 15, 1951, the Trustees said that in his death "the University has lost a loyal member of its family who took a prominent part" in its development "in the first third of this century." Actually it was much longer. It called him "a devoted servant to the educational and research interests" of the University, pointed to his "warm and genial personality" and said he would "long be remembered for his personal attributes of kindliness and nobleness of character."