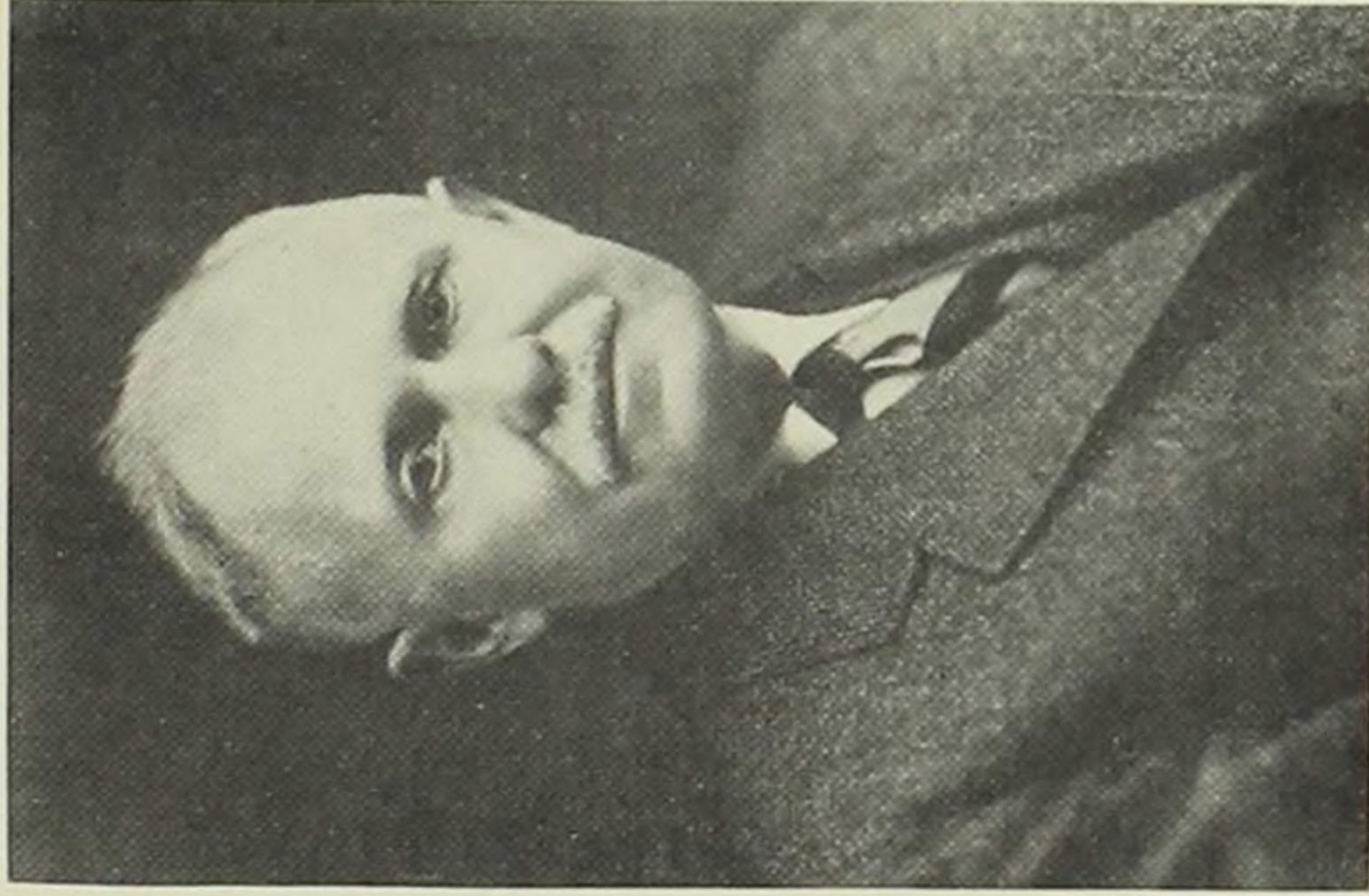


Wilber John Teeters

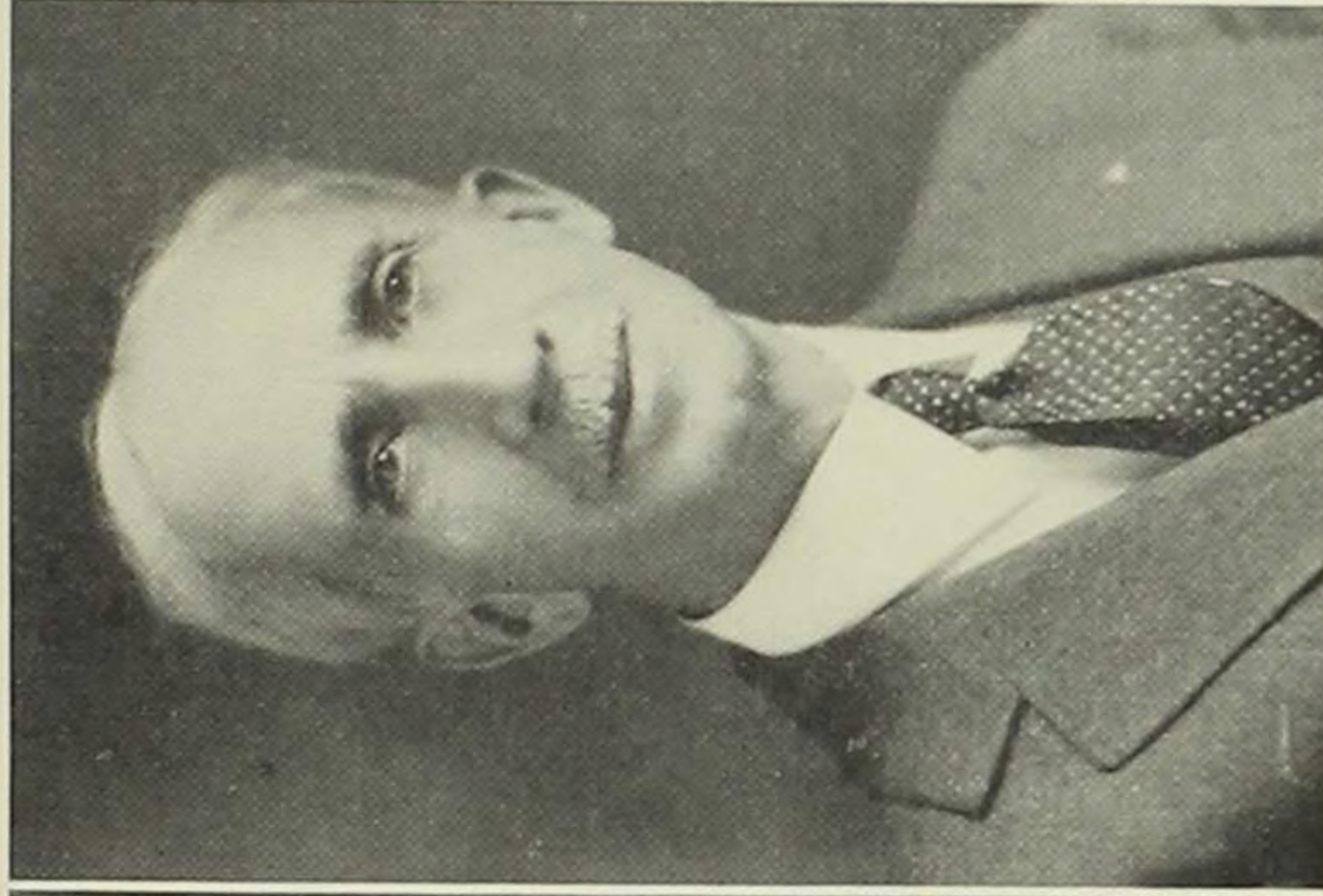
The normal life span of man has been described in terms of three score years and ten. It is acclaimed a matter of chance or perhaps fortunate circumstances, if one attains four score years. But today science helps us to preserve our health, conserve our energies, and live longer. Moreover, we "live in deeds, not years," in thoughts, "not in figures on a dial." Yet even today an octogenarian who retains an active interest in many fields, and who, in his own field remains unsurpassed, is worthy of commendation. Such a man is Wilber J. Teeters — scholar, teacher, administrator, expert witness, public servant, and renowned toxicologist. He is a courageous individual, with a saving sense of humor — yet withal a modest man.

Wilber John Teeters was born in a log cabin on a farm near Alliance, Ohio, October 10, 1866. His early education was attained in the country school and in an academy in nearby Limaville. He was graduated from Mount Union College in 1893 — his college years having been interrupted while he taught in the public schools. As a youth, he had entertained the hope of being a grocer. Later he thought of becoming a dentist. Subsequently he was attracted into the field of applied

THREE DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



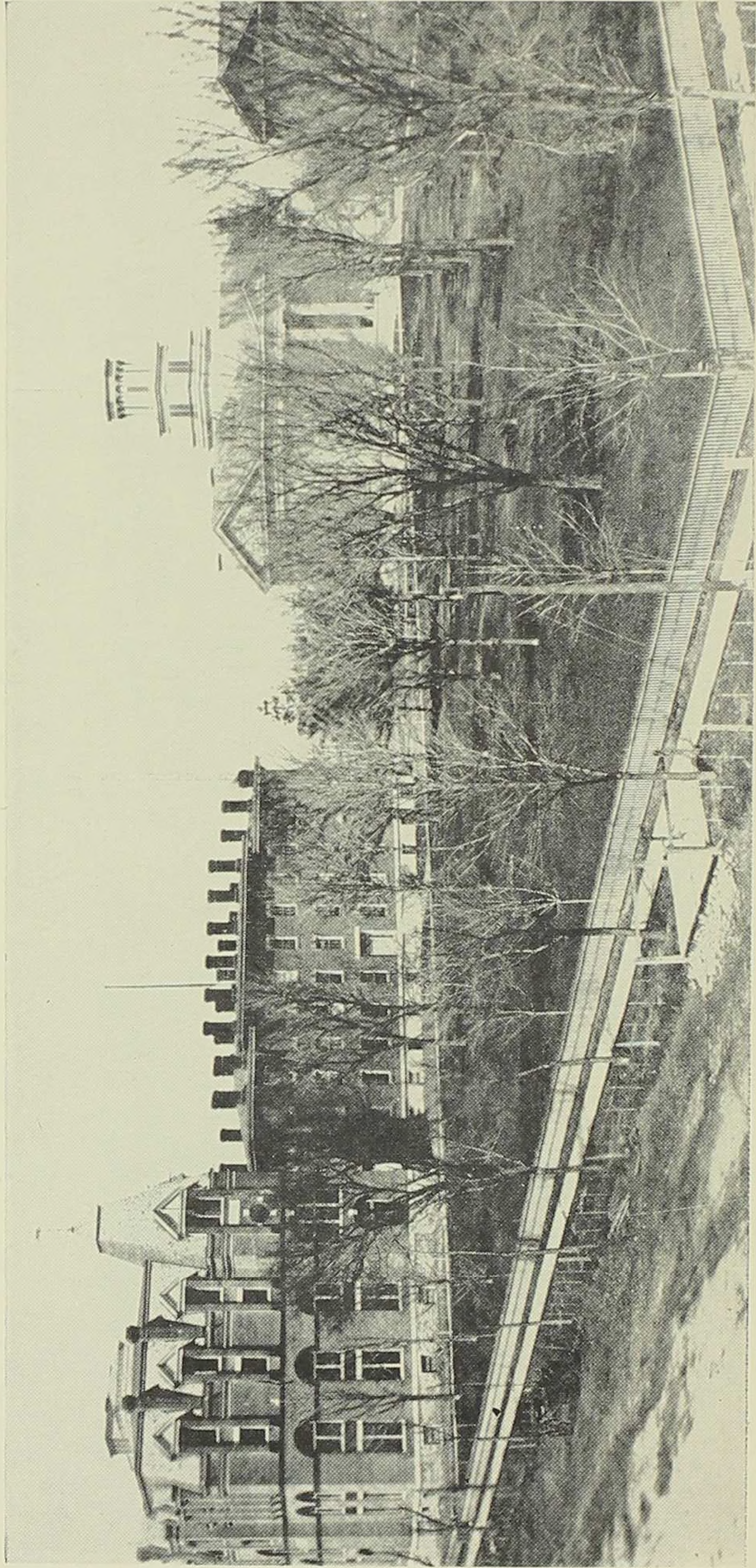
EMIL L. BOERNER
1885-1903



WILBER J. TEETERS
1904-1937



R. A. KUEVER
1937-



LEFT TO RIGHT—OLD MEDICAL BUILDING, OLD SOUTH HALL, OLD CAPITOL,
THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY WAS FIRST HOUSED IN BASEMENT OF MEDICAL BUILDING.

chemistry and pharmacy. He received his professional training at the University of Michigan, where he was graduated with the degree of Pharmaceutical Chemist in 1895.

Prior to graduation, young Teeters had been offered a position at the State University of Iowa. He hesitated, because he desired to enter the field of commercial pharmacy, in a store of his own. The call came a second time, more urgent than the first. At length he accepted an appointment for one year as a demonstrator in chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of Iowa, thinking that he would return to Ohio shortly and become a druggist. But these plans were not destined to mature: Teeters enjoyed Iowa, and the University needed him. His preparations had been thorough, his attitude aggressive, his hopes high.

Teeters remained in his original position until 1903, when he became a professor in the College of Pharmacy. In 1904 he was made Dean of the College. A decade of service was soon completed, and then another. University students came and went. Faculty changes were frequent. New University presidents were appointed from time to time, but the Dean stayed on.

During the administration of Dean Teeters, the College of Pharmacy underwent its greatest development. The curriculum expanded from a two-year course — one of the best in the country — to

a three-year course, and then to four years, giving the bachelor's degree. Hospital pharmacy and drug manufacturing for the University hospitals and University laboratories were started and developed steadily during Dean Teeters' regime.

An able administrator and man of vision, Teeters was also an outstanding teacher with many individual ideas and methods. "Only those who have sat in his classes know what those possibly unorthodox but pedagogically sound methods were like." Students remember him and his methods well. He made the subjects live. There was never a dull moment. Many Iowa alumni, across the continent and across the years, prize highly their classroom experiences under Professor Teeters. The things they learned, aside from the subject matter of the course, were invaluable in helping them to understand life's problems.

The Dean's office door was always open. He was accessible at all times, not merely during a few office hours each week. Students were encouraged to confer with him freely relative to their university problems, and his wise judgment helped many over hard places. No one can say how many young people were aided by Dean Teeters.

Dean Teeters served on many University boards and committees. Two examples are indicative of the breadth of his interests. He was a member of the Board in Control of Athletics from

1905 to 1916, and was chairman during the last three years of that time. For nearly ten years, beginning in 1917, he was chairman of the Board of Social Organizations and Affairs. His good judgment and wise counsel in University matters were often sought and always freely given. For many years he was known as the "Dean of Deans."

In addition to his administrative, teaching, and advisory duties, Dean Teeters has frequently been called upon for analytical work in connection with cases involving the science of toxicology — a field in which he has won national renown. He avoids the use of the term "expert witness," however, recalling that such an individual has sometimes been defined as "one who knows more and more about less and less until finally he comes to know almost everything about nothing." But in a legal sense an expert is "one who has made a subject a matter of study, practice, and observation, and has particular special knowledge on the subject." In this sense Dean Teeters is an expert in the science of toxicology. Many times his knowledge of poisons and his skill in detecting them have helped to reveal facts which were essential in bringing criminals to justice. He has lectured frequently on such interesting subjects as "Poisoned Foods," "Science Fights Crime," "Chemistry in the Detection of Crime," or "Poison Homicides on the Wane."

Dean Teeters has been affiliated with many phases of educational work in pharmacy and allied fields. He served the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association in many ways. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he has been very active in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Fraternal organizations have always received his active interest and enthusiastic support. While still a student at the University of Michigan, Teeters became the first president of Province Delta of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. In 1905 he was one of the founders of the Iowa Beta chapter at the State University of Iowa. He is also a member of Phi Delta Chi, and Beta Phi Sigma, both pharmaceutical societies; Rho Chi, honorary pharmaceutical fraternity; Alpha Chi Sigma, chemical fraternity; Gamma Alpha, a graduate science society; and Alpha Phi Omega, the fraternity of the Boy Scouts of America. He helped found the Triangle Club (the University men's faculty club) and is one of its two surviving charter members. He is a Kiwanian, a Mason, a Shriner, and a Knight Templar.

The experiences of Dean Teeters in his family relationships have not been without their interruptions and bereavements. In 1896 he married Miss Anna Hollister, of Alliance, Ohio. To this mar-

riage a son — Ellis Hollister Teeters — was born in 1903, but he survived only four years. Meanwhile, Mr. and Mrs. Teeters had built a commodious home on the quiet wooded banks west of the Iowa River in Iowa City. Here Wilber Otis Teeters, an adopted son, became an integral part of the household in 1907. Here, also, Anna Hollister Teeters died in 1909.

In 1913 Dean Teeters married Miss Sara Harrison, a resident of Davenport and the daughter of a pioneer pharmacist of that city. In 1921 Sara Harrison Teeters died, after a lingering illness. In 1925 Hazel Reynolds of Waukee became the bride of Dean Teeters. Five years later, however, she forfeited her life in the birth of a son—Billy.

Dean Teeters retired from his active administrative duties in the College of Pharmacy on July 1, 1937, but remained a member of the faculty on a half-time basis, teaching pharmacognosy and toxicological analysis. The latter is an elective course, but it is of such interest that at times laboratory accommodations have been taxed to their full capacity. Pharmacy and chemistry students, both graduate and undergraduate, find it invaluable.

After his retirement from active duty, the Dean Emeritus devoted more and more time to civic affairs. He had long been actively engaged in the Boy Scout movement — an experience that served him well in promoting the happiness of his son,

Billy. In 1935, he was awarded the Silver Beaver, an emblem given to only one person annually in each area by the National Boy Scout Council for outstanding work with boys. For many years he served as an advisor for the Order of De Molay.

Always interested in civic affairs, in 1941 Mr. Teeters was elected an alderman of Iowa City. In 1943 he was elected Mayor and two years later was reelected to that office. Under his leadership the city was given an efficient administration.

On October 10, 1946, Mayor Teeters was honored on his eightieth birthday by 130 University alumni and Iowa City friends at a banquet in the River Room of the Iowa Memorial Union. A scholarship fund of more than two thousand dollars, contributed by a vast number of friends, was presented to the University in commemoration of his services as professor, dean, and public servant.

Speaking at this banquet, one of his colleagues said: "It's not so much what Teeters does, it's his influence on others that has made him so successful." A former student and alumnus of the College of Pharmacy said of him: "Not only was he a good teacher, but he took an interest in the student's life. He is a man whose deeds will always be remembered." This is just another way of saying: "We live in deeds, not years," in thoughts, "not in figures on the dial."

JACOB A. SWISHER