

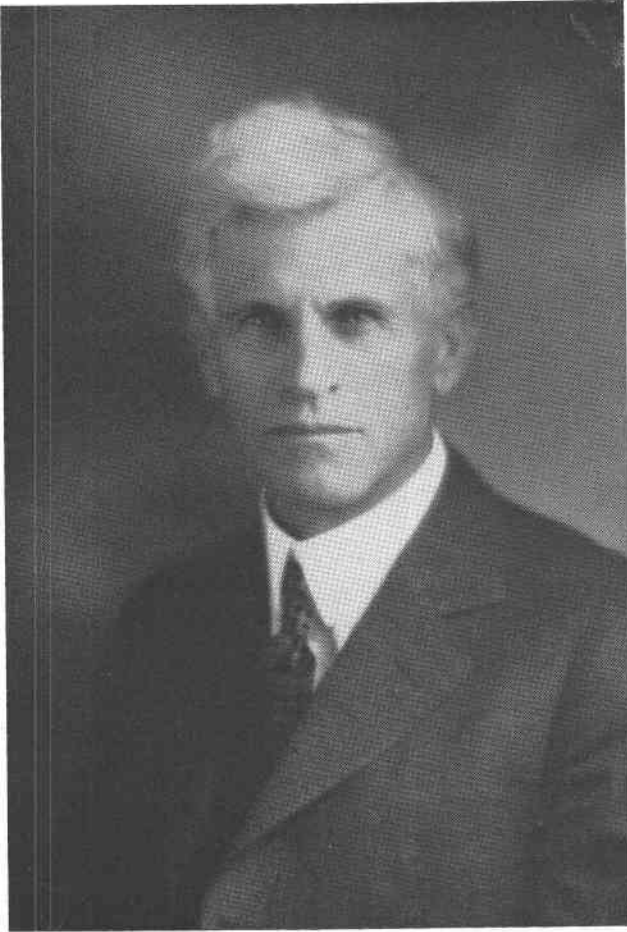
## MEMORIAL OF RALPH DIXON CRAWFORD

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Ralph Dixon Crawford, Emeritus Professor of Mineralogy and Petrography at the University of Colorado, passed away on March 7, 1950, the seventy-seventh anniversary of his birth. His death followed a surgical operation performed in an effort to prolong his life, and brought to an end the distinguished career of one of the ablest and most respected scholars of the Rocky Mountain region.

Professor Crawford was born in Peotone, Illinois, on March 7, 1873, and was next to the youngest of the ten children in the family of Ralph and Nancy Elizabeth (Cotes) Crawford. A younger brother, and older sister, and his wife, Theophania (Huntington) Crawford, survive him. He spent his youth in Illinois, and after receiving preparatory training at Northern Indiana Normal School (now Valparaiso University) entered the teaching profession and taught for several years in the public schools of Illinois, Texas, and Colorado. While in Colorado he became interested in geology and entered the University of Colorado, where he obtained a B.A. degree in 1905, and a M.A. degree in 1907. Upon completion of the work for the Master's degree he was appointed to an instructorship in Geology. Thus started a long and productive career of teaching and research at the University of Colorado. He interrupted his teaching to attend Yale University in 1910-11 and was awarded a Ph.D. by that institution in 1913, after having submitted a thesis on the Monarch-Tomichi District, Colorado.

Early in his career, Professor Crawford demonstrated considerable ability in the field study of geology and in the period from 1906 to 1925 spent much time in the mapping and interpretation of the geology of several Colorado areas. His first extensive field experience came when he served for two summers as field assistant to Hoyt S. Gale in a study of the coal fields of northwestern Colorado. During the next two summers he was assistant to the State Geologist of Colorado and worked in the Boulder County Tungsten District and the Hahn's Peak area of northwestern Colorado. In subsequent years he served as a geologist for the Colorado Geological Survey and was placed in active charge of several field and laboratory investigations. He supervised and actively participated in detailed geological studies of the Garfield, Monarch, Tomichi, Gold Brick, and Red Cliff districts of Colorado. In much of this work he developed a particular interest in igneous rocks and ore deposits, but his concise and authoritative reports covered all phases of the geology and mineralogy of the areas investigated by him and his co-workers.



RALPH DIXON CRAWFORD  
1873-1950

Although Professor Crawford established an enviable reputation as a research geologist and mineralogist, he is best remembered by his students as an inspiring and inspired teacher—a lovable person of unimpeachable honesty and dignity. He demanded and received the best that each of his students could give. He would not tolerate a slovenly performance and by his own actions set an example of high moral standards and intellectual endeavor for those who worked with him.

During the last twenty years of his life, poor health forced Professor Crawford to give up his field work and laboratory research, but in spite

of his health, he was able to continue his duties as a teacher until 1940, when he retired as Professor Emeritus. During the many years that he taught, and after his retirement, he kept up an extensive correspondence with many former students, and by kindly interest and wise counsel made his influence felt long after they had graduated from college. Students and friends returning to Boulder always made a special effort to spend some time visiting with "Doc" Crawford in the pleasant surroundings of his home.

Professor Crawford's interest in people was almost matched by his keen appreciation of the significance of world events. He was a staunch Republican and spent many hours in animated discussions on political subjects. He was active in the Congregational Church and participated in many religious and charitable works. Scientific recognition was accorded him when he was elected a Fellow in both the Mineralogical Society of America and the Geological Society of America. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Sigma Xi.

His character and personality were ably described by a pastor of his church who once said, "Doctor Crawford is one of God's own noblemen."

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