

June C H Kunkin
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EDWARD BLANCHARD CHAMBERLAIN.

Edward Blanchard Chamberlain, son of Charles Edwin and Margaret J. ^{Bristol, Me. July 24, 1878} (Blanchard), Chamberlain, was born in 1877. His early home was Bristol, Maine. As his father and mother had both been teachers, he received much of his early education at home, where his parents often turned his attention to the interesting things of the natural world. He prepared for college at Lincoln Academy, Newcastle, Maine, where one of the teachers, J.E.Dinsmore, was an active amateur botanist, and a stimulating friend.

Mr. Chamberlain entered Bowdoin College in the fall of 1895, following in the footsteps of his father, a member of the class 1868. He fell under the influence of Prof. Leslie A. Lee, an oldtime all-around scientist, and under his guidance took many of the scientific courses offered by the college. At graduation in 1899 he led his class, and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa. For two years he was a graduate student and instructor in botany at Brown University, receiving his degree of A.M. there in 1901.

The lifework which Mr. Chamberlain entered upon was teaching in secondary schools. His first position, for one year only, was at Oak Grove Seminary, Vassalboro, Maine. He taught in the University School (for boys) in Washington, D.C. from 1902 to 1906; since then he has been a teacher in the Franklin School (for boys) in New York City, where he taught till three days before his death. His teaching was mainly college preparatory science and mathematics, and he was very successful in it. He was also a strong man in the organization of the school, becoming senior master, "a most self-sacrificing and devoted member of its teaching staff," as one of his associates wrote of him. In recent years he has served as a reader in mathematics for the College Entrance Examination Board.

After the death of his parents Mr. Chamberlain made his summer home with his cousin, Mr. Henry H. Chamberlain, at Round Pond (Bristol), Maine. Here he lived a most lively existence, lending an active hand about the farm work, and building up his health and strength for the winter months in the city. He was most systematic in planning his life from day to day, and most conscientious in attention to details.

In 1896 he became one of the original members of the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine, and for many years he was an officer and an attendant at its meetings. To have known "Ed" on a field excursion was to have known him at his very best. Enthusiastic and a keen observer, he plunged into collecting with all the zest in the world, but he also seemed to feel a responsibility for the others in the party, and constantly went out of his way to assure himself that they were enjoying the trip, and getting their full share of its pleasures. He was also most helpful with beginners, showing them what they needed to know, and helping them along with word and letter.

Mr. Chamberlain became a non-resident member of the New England Botanical Club in 1898. He was a member of the Vermont Botanical Club, and of the Torrey Botanical Club, serving recently as a member of its Field Excursion Committee. When he lived in Washington he became a member of the Washington Biologists' Field Club and of the Biological Society and Botanical Society there. He belonged also to other such societies, for his interest in science was broad. He was a wide reader along general scientific lines.

His herbarium of vascular plants was based mainly on the floras of Lincoln and Cumberland counties in Maine, with some from Northern Rhode Island. His interest in this branch of botany gradually gave way to an intense interest in the mosses, so that in 1921 he gave his herbarium of

carefully mounted plants to the New England Botanical Club, where it is a valuable addition to the Club Herbarium.

At Brown as part of his graduate work he identified a large portion of the mosses collected by Prof. J. Franklin Collins on the Mt. Katahdin trip which several New England Botanical Club members undertook in 1900. This interest continued and steadily grew till he became an acknowledged authority on the subject. It has been Mr. Chamberlain's plan to give up teaching in a year or two, so as to devote himself entirely to scientific study, and he had thought seriously of doing so last fall. He had collected a remarkably fine and complete library of bryological lore, as well as a very large moss herbarium, and he was looking forward to years of study and classification.

For over ten years he has been the efficient Secretary-Treasurer of the Sullivant Moss Society and Business Manager of their publication, The Bryologist. He corresponded with most of the members here and abroad, and worked constantly and faithfully for its interests, often paying minor deficits from his own pocket. Such services as his can not be paid for, it comes from a desire to help others.

This spirit of helpfulness and service was the keynote of Mr. Chamberlain's character. Although he tried to keep himself in the background, it was his underlying motive in life. He was successful in helping others, too, in more ways than can be given here. Relatives, friends, students, and even casual acquaintances, all remember his characteristic ways of speech and writing, and the spirit that was in the man.

Mr. Chamberlain wrote several articles for Rhodora in its early days, and has been a frequent contributor to the pages of The Bryologist. As a letter-writer he was unexcelled, putting a great deal of himself into what he wrote, and gifted there, as elsewhere, with a strong sense of humor.

During the school year in New York he often took week-end trips in the open country with a small group of men to break the monotony of teaching, and to reinvigorate him for indoor work. It was thus that he planned his last trip to Bear Mountain to view the total eclipse of the sun on January 24. The temperature was below zero, and he was thoroughly chilled, so that he had a bad cold when he returned. He taught the following week, but gave up on Friday night. Pneumonia developed, and he died quietly on the evening of February 2. He was the only child of his parents and never married, so he left no near relatives, except two aged aunts in the West.



Knowlton, Clarence Hinckley. 1925. "Knowlton, Clarence H. Mar. 1, 1925 [biography]." *Edward Blanchard Chamberlain letters to James Franklin Collins*

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