

DR. ELIJAH JORDAN, PHILOSOPHY HEAD, RETIRES

News of the retirement of Dr. Elijah Jordan as professor and head of the philosophy department as of September 1 of this year will, come as a shock to his many friends and admirers among the body of former Butler students. In addition to long being regarded by educators throughout the nation as one of the outstanding teachers in his field, Dr. Jordan has enjoyed through his thirty-one years' association with Butler the respect, admiration and love of those who have felt his influence. Many have profited from his scholarly wisdom and from his own personal greatness, and it was with a distinct feeling of regret that the university received notice of his decision to retire from active teaching.



DR. JORDAN

Dr. Jordan had been a member of the Butler faculty since 1913, coming to Indianapolis from Cornell University. A native of Ellettsville, Indiana, he attended Oakland City College and received his A. B. degree from Indiana University. He was awarded his A. M. and Ph. D. degrees from Cornell University and the University of Chicago respectively, and he also took graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. He was an assistant in philosophy at Cornell in 1911 and 1912 and an instructor there in 1912 and 1913. Widely-known as an author, he wrote "The Life of the Mind," "Forms of Individuality," "Theory of Legislation," and "The Aesthetic Object." Because of his reputation and the informality of his classes, Dr. Jordan's courses were among the most popular offered at Butler, and his advice on personal problems was constantly being sought by his students.

Dr. Jordan is a member and former president of the American Philosophical Association. He also holds membership in the American Association of University Professors, having served as president of the Butler chapter, and in Phi Kappa Phi, national honorary scholastic fraternity.

No account of Dr. Jordan's association with Butler would be complete without mention of the gracious and charming Mrs. Jordan, who has welcomed hundreds of students into their home. Her hospitality at all times, and particularly at Philosophy Club meetings, will long be remembered with the greatest pleasure and appreciation. Dr. and Mrs. Jordan reside at 251 Berkley Road.

Typical of the feelings of many alumni upon Dr. Jordan's retirement is the following tribute which was submitted to *The Indianapolis News* by James A. Eldridge, a former Butler student. Parts of his letter follow:

"The news of the retirement of Dr. Elijah Jordan from the staff of Butler University will be received with deep regret by students and alumni alike. Those of us who were fortunate enough to study under this distinguished scholar know that he deserves a rest, and yet we regret that his guidance is to be denied to future Butler students. His greatness will always be a part of the tradition of the university.

"Students of Dr. Jordan have gone forth to two wars and they have been better fighting men because

of him. Through the years he has instilled in his students a devotion to moral and intellectual integrity, and like all teachers of the classical tradition he imparts to his students a vision of a better world created by men devoted to the attainment of the Christian ideal. . . .

"Perhaps my personal regard for Dr. Jordan can best be expressed in these words of Thomas Wolfe that he once wrote about one of his teachers: 'He was a venerable and noble-hearted man—one of those great figures which almost every college had some years ago, and which I hope they still have . . . Our Philosopher's 'philosophy' as I look back upon it, does not seem important now . . . but what was important was the man himself. He was a great teacher, and what he did for us, was not to give us his 'philosophy'—but to communicate to us his own alertness, his originality, his power to think. He was a vital force because he supplied many of us, for the first time in our lives, the inspiration of a questioning intelligence. He taught us not to be afraid to think, to question; he taught us to examine critically the most sacrosanct of our native prejudices and superstitions. So, of course, throughout the State, the bigots hated him; but his own students worshipped him. . . . And the seed he planted grew. . . .'"

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