

suasion to keep him from traveling far and wide in the interest of Bethany College. But he did realize that his strength was failing. In the capitol city of Topeka, on the 25th day of April, 1941, the well known educator informed the Kansas Conference that after 37 years he felt he had completed his calling as President of Bethany college. It was an impressive moment when one of the ablest educators and administrators relinquished the helm by which he and the institution had played such an important role in Church and State.

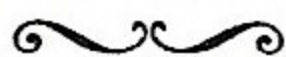
Thursday, December 9th, Dr. Pihlblad attended a meeting of the State Merit Board at Topeka, Kansas. He visited with Governor Schoeppel during the morning, discussing affairs of the Board. He attended the regular meeting of the Rotary club at noon, but left early, because he said, "I am a little tired and believe I'll lie down a bit". It was at the afternoon session of the Board when a heart attack came. He was taken to a hospital where he departed this life peacefully at the age of 70 years.

Dr. Pihlblad is survived by two sons, both in educational work. They are Dr. Terence Pihlblad, long chairman of the Department of Sociology at the University of Missouri, now with the OPA; and Lt. Helge E. Pihlblad, formerly Superintendent of Schools at Garfield, Kansas, and now an Army officer stationed at Houston, Texas; two daughters-in-law; and four grandchildren, Marie and Helen, Margaret and Leslie.

At this time there looms before the Bethany family, two illustrious figures: Dr. Carl Swensson, the founder, who stands in the Bethany background, and only a few of us taking part in this service can feel his personal touch. Fresh upon the horizon stands Dr. Ernst Pihlblad's figure. With a pull on our heart strings, and a tender touch of our hands, we shall, in a few moments, unite in committing the remains of our beloved friend, our esteemed teacher, and our consecrated leader to the rest and peace of Mother Earth. But this we know, that his noble soul by grace and grace alone has entered into the inexpressible peace, joy, and glory of the children of God, which is begun on earth and made perfect in Heaven. Peace on Dr. Pihlblad's memory.

DR. VICTOR SPONG.

(Bethany '10, President, Kansas Conference, Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri.)



The Service

Funeral services were held in Presser Hall at 2:30 p. m. on the Bethany campus on Monday, December 13, 1943 for Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad, who passed away on Thursday, December 9, while attending

a regular meeting of the state merit system board at Topeka. A brief service was conducted at the late home at 2:15 p. m.

Hundreds of people from Lindsborg, the surrounding communities and the entire state very nearly filled the main floor of Presser Hall and overflowed into the balcony. As the crowd sat in Presser Hall Dr. Pihlblad's friends meditated on the many things he had done to help Bethany College and the community at large. His activities and influence did not stop there but extended on throughout the state of Kansas, the Augustana Lutheran Synod, and into wide area.

Officiating clergymen were Rev. Philemon Smith, pastor of Bethany church, of which Dr. Pihlblad was a member; Dr. Alfred Bergin, pastor emeritus of the Bethany Church; Dr. Victor Spong, President of the Kansas Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod; and Dr. Paul M. Esping, pastor of the Messiah Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Bergin was in charge of devotionals both at the home and at Presser Hall. Dr. Spong read the above obituary and Dr. Esping delivered the sermon. Rev. Smith pronounced the benediction and made the announcements. Rev. James Claypool, pastor of the Messiah Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, and Rev. J. E. Liljedahl, pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Salina, were the mace bearers. The Bethany Oratorio Society with Dr. Hagbard Brase directing and Professor Arvid Wallin, organist, sang three numbers at the funeral services, "Surely, He Hath Borne Our Grievs, and Carried Our Sorrows", "Since By Man Came Death", and "Behold The Lamb of God". In his youth, Dr. Pihlblad sang with the chorus and then in later years as President of Bethany College for 37 years, he addressed the huge crowds which came to Lindsborg each Easter to hear the Chorus sing Handel's "The Messiah". Mrs. Burdette Hanson played the organ prelude.

Interment was made at the Elmwood cemetery with J. O. Stromquist, Jens Stensaas, Erland Carlsson, Emil Lindell, Oscar Thorsen, Joe Henmon, Dr. Wm. Holwerda, Leonard Runbeck, Thure Jaderborg, Hjalmar Wetterstrom, serving as pallbearers.

Honorary pallbearers were: Governor Andrew Schoepfel, Tom Wilson, Frank Allvine, and Charles B. Newell, of the Civil Service Commission; Dr. Birger Sandzen, Mr. Arvid Wallin, Dr. Hagbard Brase, Mr. Chester Abercrombie, Mr. Leroy Johnson, Mr. Ludvig Nelson, Mr. Levi Malmgren, Mr. Chester Peterson, Mr. L. M. Anderson, Dr. Emory Lindquist, and Mr. LaVern Soderstrom.

Dr. Pihlblad passed away at Christ Hospital in Topeka at 3:35 Thursday afternoon. Thursday morning he had visited with Governor Schoepfel, discussing affairs of the board, and then attended the regular meeting of the Rotary Club at noon, but left there early saying "I am a little tired and believe I will lie down a bit".

When the Civil Service Commission offices opened, Dr. Pihlblad was there ready to take up his duties as chairman of the civil service board, but shortly thereafter he complained of being ill. He was taken

to Christ Hospital and died a half hour after entering it. A heart attack was given as the cause of death.

Dr. Pihlblad had served as chairman of the civil service board since it was established in 1941. Throughout the Smoky Valley he was known as a man who had the interest of the entire valley at heart. His advice and influence was often sought by Lindsborg's officials and citizens, and was always granted by Dr. Pihlblad, who, as a friend to everyone in the valley, was always ready to do all he could to further the communities' welfare.

He was born in Kansas City, March 18, 1873, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pihlblad. He attended the Kansas City schools and graduated from Bethany college with the Bachelor of Arts degree in the first graduating class in 1891. Following his graduation from Bethany, he enrolled in the Augustana Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1894 and was ordained thereupon as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod.

On July 5, 1894, he was united in marriage with Miss Marie Sjostrom of Brooklyn, New York. Mrs. Pihlblad preceded him in death in June, 1941, shortly after she and Dr. Pihlblad were involved in an automobile accident in which both of them received injuries from which they never completely recovered.

Two sons survive Dr. Pihlblad: Dr. Terence Pihlblad, now of Dallas, Texas, and Lt. H. E. Pihlblad, who is stationed at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, and four grandchildren, Marie, Helen, Margaret and Leslie.

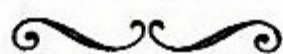
Following his ordination into the ministry, Dr. Pihlblad served as pastor of the Lutheran churches in Paterson and Passaic, New Jersey. He then received a call to Bethany college and served as professor of Latin from 1895 to 1904 and as vice president from 1900 to 1904. He was elected President of the college in 1904 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1941 when he became President Emeritus. He received the Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Augustana College in 1906, and the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Bethany in 1941.

Dr. Pihlblad had a distinguished record as an educator, churchman, and citizen. During his tenure of office new buildings were added including the splendid Presser Hall, the endowment was substantially increased and the college received accreditation. Dr. Pihlblad served as a member of the Kansas Text-Book Commission 1912-1914 and as a member of the Kansas State Board of Education, 1933-1936. He was also active in the National Lutheran Educational Conference, and in other agencies.

In 1920 a signal honor was accorded Dr. Pihlblad when he was invited to visit Sweden as a guest of that nation, and on arriving there he was made a knight of the Order of Vasa by King Gustaf V, for his outstanding educational work among the Swedish people of America.

Dr. Pihlblad was a leader in civic affairs. He served in the Kansas Senate from 1936 to 1940, after having been drafted for that position by the McPherson-Harvey County district, in 1936. When the bond scandal in the State Treasurer's office became public in 1933, Governor Alfred Landon, offered Dr. Pihlblad the state treasurer-ship, but he declined.

At the time of his death Dr. Pihlblad was pastor of the Falun Lutheran church where he had served in that capacity for 16 years. The Danielson Funeral Home was in charge of the services on Monday.—The Lindsborg News-Record, December 16, 1943.



Remembrances

No record of data needs be before me as these lines are being written in remembrance of a friend since the days of childhood. The book of memory is my only source of reference. At the age of eleven years Ernst F. Pihlblad and I were enrolled as pupils in Bethany Academy, the first name of what now is Bethany College. We occupied seats and desk together through three years in the preparatory department and in the four years of college. A priceless memory, unfading as decades have rolled by, is the day when we said goodbye to the little white "Academy" in the center of the park and moved into the massive, new building of Bethany College and Normal Institute. Right here the great figure rises up before me of a daring, far-seeing man, who, beside the parents that gave us life, and our families, has meant more to Ernst F. Pihlblad and to me than any other man, living or dead—Carl Swensson, creator of Bethany and wise counselor to boys and girls, in whose hearts he unfailingly kindled fires of high ambitions. Looking back over the years, it seems clear that Ernst F. Pihlblad and I were pre-ordained into the Holy Ministry early in our college course by Dr. Carl Swensson and that, unknowingly, we were guided by his hand in that direction. Accordingly we two left Bethany simultaneously to take up post graduate studies in Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, where we were room-mates. Ernst F. Pihlblad's course was interrupted at the end of the first school-year by a summons from Bethany's president to return for a year to his Alma Mater and fill a vacancy in the teaching force, which was done efficiently and with every promise of excellence as a professor of Latin. Resuming attendance at the Theological Seminary in 1893, Ernst F. Pihlblad was ordained 1894 to the ministry and served a New Jersey parish until 1895 when he again became identified with Bethany College at his former post as professor of Latin language and literature. The reestablishment of this connection, that was to continue forty-eight years and be terminated only by death, became of immeasurable importance on the history of Bethany College.