



—Courtesy of the Illinois State Museum

ALJA ROBINSON CROOK

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1864-1930

Dr. A. R. Crook was born in Circleville, Ohio, June 17, 1864. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1887. After graduation he held the position of superintendent of schools at Mt. Carmel, Ohio, from 1887 until 1889. From 1889 until 1892 he spent much time abroad continuing his scientific studies in the British Museum, at the Jardin des Plantes, the University of Zürich, and the University of Munich. He received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Munich, his thesis being entitled "Ueber einige Fossile Knochenfische aus der Mittleren Kreide von Kansas." It was published in *Paleontographica* in 1892.

On his return Dr. Crook served one year as professor of natural history at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. In 1893 he was called to Northwestern University as professor of minerology and petrology, the title being changed later to professor of minerology and economic geology.

In the summer of 1906 Dr. Crook was appointed Curator of the State Museum of Illinois, which was then housed in a room of the State Arsenal. Under his direction the museum expanded very rapidly, and now occupies a large part of the space in the fine new Centennial Building on the Capitol grounds. From 1917 on Dr. Crook served as Chief of the State Museum Division of the Department of Education.

Dr. Crook was the author of numerous publications. One of the most important of these is his "Guide to Mineral Collections of the Illinois State Museum," which is one of the finest books of its kind and is a standard reference work in museums.

Dr. Crook was one of the leaders in the foundation of the Illinois State Academy of Science in 1908. More than almost anyone else, his labor made possible the development of this organization to its present place and power in the State. He was its first secretary and he held this position, which is easily the most important one in the Academy, from the time of its foundation until 1910, and also again at a later date. He was fittingly honored with the presidency of the Academy, for which he had done so much, in 1914; and he was the very efficient librarian of the Academy from 1915 until his death, May 30, 1930. The Academy can never forget the important work he did in its establishment and its carrying on in later years. It is fitting that a heart felt tribute should be given his memory.

HENRY C. COWLES.