

J. B. JOHNSTON

John Black Johnston was born in Belle Center, Ohio on October 3, 1868. He spent six years as an assistant and instructor at the University of Michigan before receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1899, the same year that he married Juliet Morton Butler of Ann Arbor.

Upon leaving Michigan, he became Associate Professor and, soon after, Professor of Zoology at the University of West Virginia, where he described himself as the "head, body, and tail" of the department. In 1904 and 1905, he studied at the Naples Zoological Station and at the University of Freiburg. During this time, his classes at Morgantown were taught by Mrs. Johnson, who held a Master's degree from the University of Michigan.

In 1907, Dr. Johnston was appointed Assistant Professor of Anatomy of the Nervous System at the University of Minnesota. He advanced to Associate Professor of Comparative Neurology in 1908, and to Professor in 1909.

Recognized as a founder of comparative neurobiology in this country, Dr. Johnston served on the editorial board of the Journal of Comparative Neurology from 1908 to 1933, as well as being a member of the editorial board of the *Ergebnisse und Fortschritte der Zoologie*. A complete bibliography of his scientific papers does not appear to exist, but by 1923 they numbered 44, in addition to his textbook of comparative neurology. After becoming Dean of the College of Science, Literature and Arts at the University of Minnesota in 1914, Dr. Johnston became active in numerous educational activities. He published 37 papers in the field of education, in addition to three books, the titles of which suggest his concerns during the years immediately preceding World War II: "The Liberal College in Changing Society", 1931; "Education for Democracy", 1934; and "Scholarship and Democracy", 1937.

At Minnesota, Dr. Johnston was known for absolute fairness and dependability, traits that many readers of his scientific papers today may have predicted. He was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in 1933, and retired in 1937. After traveling in the Orient and South America, he died in Palo Alto, California on November 18, 1939. A son, Stanwood, had preceded him in death; a second son, Norris, and Mrs. Johnston were said to survive in 1951 when Johnston Hall, named in his honor, was dedicated at the University of Minnesota.