

four honorary degrees. After his formal retirement he continued to live in Washington in the winter and to travel in the summer. His first wife, Emily Ayers Young, to whom he was married on February 19, 1895, died in 1945. In 1950 he married Miss Helen Victoria Brown, and with her resumed the traveling which had fascinated him since his first voyage abroad in 1903 as a reporter. His activities continued until about two years ago, when he became incapacitated by the illness which carried him off on November 23, 1955.

Mr. O'Brien gave an impression of greatness which goes beyond the record of his career. He was no crusader. Although a lifelong Unitarian, he was comfortably orthodox on social and political questions. Perhaps the answer is that he was a great newspaperman, correctly interpreting the public mind instead of trying to change it. C. K. S.

### STANLEY THOMAS WILLIAMS

Stanley T. Williams was born at Meriden, Connecticut, on October 25, 1888, a son of Charles Merriam and Emeline Beaumont (MacFarland) Williams. He took his B.A. at Yale in 1911, and his Ph.D. in 1915, and immediately joined the teaching staff there. Except for some study at the Sorbonne, two years of military service, and a year's teaching at Upsala, he spent all of his career at Yale, working up through the academic ranks to the Sterling Professorship of American Literature. He introduced the first formal course in American literature at Yale, and served as chairman of the Department of English and director of graduate studies in the Department of American Studies.

Although a most conscientious teacher, Williams found time to write or edit a score of books on English and Ameri-

can literature. For years his chief interest was Washington Irving, and his two-volume biography which appeared in 1935 is the standard work. His most recent publication was a two-volume work on *The Spanish Background of American Literature*.

It was a mutual interest in Poe which brought Mr. Williams and Mr. Brigham together, and resulted in the Professor's election to this Society in 1944. He never attended a meeting because the day always conflicted with his most important class. We long negotiated to have him read a paper before the Society, but could never find a suitable time or subject. In his last letter to us he said that he was shortly to retire, and was anticipating attending our meetings. He died at his home in Hamden on February 5, 1956, survived by his widow, the former Mary Lee Rockwell, and by their three children, Charles Rockwell; David Lee, and Mary Lee.

C. K. S.

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