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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

We have asked Professor Jerome Hall, of the Indiana University School of Law, to write an appreciation of his and our good friend and colleague, the late Professor Edwin H. Sutherland, who was one of our wise counsellors during many years.—THE EDITORS.

EDWIN H. SUTHERLAND
1883-1950

Edwin H. Sutherland died suddenly on October eleventh. The previous afternoon he had attended a reception for several German students enrolled at Indiana University. The writer was also present, as were other colleagues, and all thought Sutherland was in excellent health and in unusually good spirits. The next morning he was the victim of a stroke or seizure and a hard fall, while walking from his home to meet a class in criminology. He was gone within the hour. The shock may be easily imagined. The many friends, colleagues, and students of Edwin Sutherland mourn their common loss. All knew him as a quiet, kindly gentleman, gifted with a sense of humor and a genius for forging strong bonds of affection and esteem.

On the surface the career of a scholar may seem uneventful and even dull. But deep inside, his life is often a ceaseless battle that summons no end of courage and, in a great scholar like Sutherland, an inexhaustible store of energy and fortitude.

The bare facts of his career are simple and impressive: born in Nebraska, August 13, 1883; graduation from Grand Island College in 1904, followed immediately by the beginning of an academic career at Sioux Falls College and at his Alma Mater; then the doctorate at Chicago in 1913, and subsequently, a member of the faculties of the following institutions: William Jewell College (1913-1919), the University of Illinois (1919-1926), Minnesota (1926-1929), Chicago (1930-1935), and Indiana since 1935, where he was Chairman of the Sociology Department until 1949. He was relieved of administrative duties at that time and continued his teaching and research.

The integrity of the man shone through everything he did, and never more typically than in his refusal to be associated with certain measures that, from time to time, received wide publicity in the newspapers. He remained aloof, for example, from the agitation concerning sex offender laws. Instead of joining it, he pursued his researches on that problem and published his results in this JOURNAL (January-February, 1950) and in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY (September, 1950).

Sutherland's teaching was distinguished by an attitude of extraordinary objectivity and thorough inquiry maintained on a high level. He knew how to keep his feelings and personality from intruding into the discussion. The degree of his success in conducting classes and seminars represented a rare pedagogical achievement, and colleagues in various departments caught some of the spirit of Sutherland's method of encouraging student participation. In this way he influenced university teaching considerably.

An active member of a few scholarly organizations, Sutherland was President of the American Sociological Society in 1939, an Associate of the Bureau of Social Hygiene (1929-1930), and for many years a member of the Editorial Board of the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY.

Sutherland's eminence as a criminologist and his reputation in the United States and many foreign countries were built on the solid foundation of his published work. This is not the place for a critical appraisal of it nor, indeed, will a thorough estimate be possible until many years have passed. It is, of course, widely recognized that Sutherland's contribution to criminology is vastly significant. He has, in effect, raised fundamental challenges to accepted theory and until the relevant literature is published, it will be impossible to assess the full impact of his work on 20th century criminology. In any event, if influence on basic theory, rather than immediate acceptance or agreement, is the best measure of a scholar's work, E. H. Sutherland will long be remembered as one of very few criminologists of this century to win a lasting place in the annals of the discipline.

Sutherland's contribution transcends the significance of his specific theories on differential association, white collar criminality, etc. His *Principles of Criminology* (4th ed. 1947) set a high standard, and the very wide use of this book is an index of influence of the best sort which, however, cannot easily be measured. The *Principles* have been translated into several foreign languages, attesting to Sutherland's international reputation. There was evidence of this also in the number

of foreign criminologists who made special trips from the beaten paths connecting the large cities, in order to spend a day or two in Bloomington. Sutherland's other books were: *Twenty Thousand Homeless Men* (with Harvey Locke, 1936), *The Professional Thief* (1937), and *White Collar Crime* (1949). He also wrote several monographs and about 50 articles. All of it is thorough and thoughtful; much of it is provocative in the best sense.

In view of the fact that this JOURNAL from its very beginning has encouraged inter-disciplinary studies, mostly in the fields of law and criminology, this is the appropriate place to record Sutherland's contribution in that regard. His published work shows his familiar grasp of the criminal law. Although he was frequently a very sharp critic of the law and its institutions, the important fact is that he was a close student of the law, regularly spending much time in the Law Library; and he utilized that knowledge in his researches in criminology.

Other facts concerning Sutherland's interest in inter-disciplinary studies are not generally known, and their importance requires that they be recorded here. A goodly number of students who were criminology "majors" were regularly sent to the Law School to take the course in Criminal Law and Procedure. He also participated in planning the programs of students who were interested in the broad field of criminology, criminal law and administration. And, during the past six or seven years Sutherland had promoted a new development of much potential significance. As Chairman of the Department of Sociology he encouraged a number of graduate students to take a "minor" in law. What this may lead to ultimately is problematical, though the history of sociology, especially in Europe, suggests that legal studies, if pursued scientifically rather than vocationally, can be of the utmost importance for social science. Sutherland appreciated the possibilities and was willing to explore them.

This further evidence of his intellectual hospitality is perhaps the note on which these remarks should end. But it may well be added that Sutherland's quiet personality, which encouraged every shade of opinion and permitted an open-minded use of any significant data, did not include any intellectual flabbiness or lack of resolution. Sutherland had a hard core of theory in his thinking which he defended without quarter or compromise. This coherence between the man and his scholarship was the product of complete honesty, integrity, and courage. It was the good fortune of social science that, having chosen the battleground of criminology for his life's work, Sutherland had an abundance of

those qualities which characterize both the great fighter for human advancement and the great scholar. Our world can ill afford the loss of such valiant spirits who represent the best that American culture can offer to meet the serious problems which beset the times. If these problems are in good measure solved, that will be largely due to the contributions of scholars of the stature of Edwin Sutherland.

JEROME HALL.