

## TYPE COLLECTION OF THE WRITINGS OF ROBERT T. HILL

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Dr. Robert T. Hill has signally honored the Geological Department of Southern Methodist University by donating to its library the type collection of his writings with an index and annotated bibliography. This collection covers the writings of one of America's leading geologists over a period of nearly half a century. Interesting and valuable in every phase of geology, it is the court of final reference for the student of the history of Texas stratigraphy.

Among the outstanding achievements of Dr. Hill were the identification of the Lower Cretaceous in Texas; the recognition of the great Balcones fault structure; the working out of the Comanchean and Cretaceous stratigraphy; and the outlining of the physiography of Texas and adjacent regions. Equally valuable was his early reconnaissance work in Mexico, Cuba, and Central America, and his more recent work in California.

Excluding about fifty recent articles in the Dallas News and three large unpublished manuscripts, Dr. Hill's bibliography shows a publication list of two hundred and thirty-five titles. As to subject matter, one hundred twenty-two papers have been written on Texas geology; twenty papers on artesian water and irrigation; twenty-five articles on Mexico; twenty-seven articles on the West Indies, Cuba, and Central America; nineteen articles on volcanic eruptions; seven on California, and sixteen have been published dealing with sociology and geography.

The importance of bringing his writings together in one collection is shown in their wide distribution. Dr. Hill has

contributed to such scientific journals as the *American Journal of Science*; *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*; *American Naturalist*; *Engineering and Mining Journal*; *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers*; *Popular Science Monthly*; *American Geologist*; *Mining World*; *Manufacturers Record*; *National Geographic Magazine*; and *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology*.

With the unusual ability to make scientific matters easy of understanding to the layman, Dr. Hill has contributed many articles to newspapers throughout the nation. His articles have been welcomed in the *Washington Star*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, *Dallas News*, *Galveston News*, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *Pittsburgh Chronicle*, *New York Times*, *New York Herald*, *New York Sun*, and others.

He has contributed articles also to *Current Literature*, *The Nation*, *Forum*, *Southern Mercury*, *Reflector*, *Independent*, *World's Work*, *Century Magazine*, and *Collier's Weekly*.

Among the rare and inaccessible papers found in the collection, perhaps the most interesting is that of Hill's first contribution to a scientific journal, *American Journal of Science*, 1887. It contains his first geologic map of the Texas region, and the first presentation of the true sequence of the Texas Cretaceous. In it is the first use and naming of the Comanche series; and the first announcement of the true underlying principles of the occurrence of artesian waters of the Black and Grand Prairies, a most remarkable paper for a young Cornell graduate.

Among the more important papers of Texas Geology by Dr. Hill are "Check List of Invertebrate Fossils from the Cretaceous Formation", "On the Occurrence of Artesian and Other Underground Waters in Texas", "Physical Geography of the Texas Region", "Geography and Geology of the Black and Grand Prairie of Texas".

Papers of more general interest found in the collection

are "Running the Canyons of the Rio Grande", illustrated by the great artist Thomas Moran; and "The Wonders of the American Desert" (published in 1902), a superbly illustrated article in which Dr. Hill points out the early development and value of the arid lands of western Texas, Arizona, and Southern California.

Four important books should also be listed: "The Geological History of the Isthmus of Panama and Portions of Costa Rica", "Geology of Jamaica", "Cuba and Porto Rico" and the most recent volume, published in 1928, titled "Southern California Geology and Los Angeles Earthquakes".

The Hill collection is housed in a special steel cabinet in the Geological Library on the second floor of Hyer Hall.

A complete bibliography of the Hill collection will be published in an early issue of *FIELD & LABORATORY*.

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### A.A.P.G. MEETING AT DALLAS

Geology students of Southern Methodist University found a rare opportunity in attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Dallas, March 21-24, 1934. This meeting brought together more than 1500 professional geologists, world wide in distribution. The Association is one of the largest and strongest of scientific bodies. Its publications and programs are of outstanding interest in the field of geology. The program for 1934 was one of unusual merit and was distinguished by the number of papers on geological principles and pure science rather than applied geology.

The initial paper "The Texas Cretaceous Continued" by Robert T. Hill gave an account of his

early studies in Texas, his discovery of the lower Cretaceous and the gradual development of the Cretaceous column and nomenclature for the state which was finally recorded in his monumental work on the Black and Grand Prairies. Dr. Hill closed his paper with a proposed new classification of the Cretaceous based on successive cycles of sedimentation.

A paper by L. L. Nettleton on the "Fluid Mechanics of Salt Domes" attracted wide interest and discussion. Nettleton presented a simple yet spectacular demonstration of his hypothesis that the prime motive force for the formation of salt domes is the density difference between the salt and the surrounding sediments and that the salt and sedi-