

## DOCUMENTS AND MINUTES OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR DAVID KINGSLEY BRACE

The Special Committee of the General Faculty to prepare a Memorial Resolution for Dr. David Kingsley Brace, Professor of Physical and Health Education, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

*Forest G. Hill*  
Forest G. Hill, Secretary  
The General Faculty

IN MEMORIAMDAVID KINGSLEY BRACE

Dr. David Kingsley Brace, Graduate Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of the Department of Physical and Health Education of The University of Texas at Austin, died in a local hospital in Austin, Texas, December 27, 1971, after a prolonged illness from a heart attack and a partial paralysis. He is survived by his wife at 2205 North Lamar Boulevard in Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Laren Pitcairn of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Richard R. Beeson of Shepherd, Texas; and two grandchildren. His passing thus ended a distinguished career of one of the foremost leaders at the state, national and international levels in the fields of health, physical education, and recreation. Few individuals can equal his achievements in research, teaching, and administration, or his contributions in service to the profession.

Dr. Brace was 80 years of age at his death, having been born on September 4, 1891, in Lincoln, Nebraska. He attended high school in Portland, Oregon, where he lettered in football and was captain of the track team. In 1915 he received his A.B. degree from Reed College in Portland, where he was captain of both the football and track teams. He later played basketball at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he received his M.A. in 1921. In 1927 he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

His career was broad and varied. His early experience included teaching general science and physical education in the junior high schools of Salem, Oregon, in 1915-16. The next two years he served as Director of Physical Education at Chihli Provincial Higher Normal College, Paotingfu, China; and from 1918 to 1920 he served as Director of Physical Education and Department Head at Tsing Hua College, Peking, China. After serving abroad he returned to the States and taught at Columbia University until coming to The University of Texas at Austin in 1926 where he established the Department of Physical and Health Education and served as its Chairman from 1926 until 1958. He retired from active teaching in 1962. In addition, he has taught summer sessions at the University of Southern California, Boston University, the University of Iowa, Sul Ross State University, and the University of Colorado.

Dr. Brace's experience was not limited to the field of teaching. He conducted various surveys and was active in field work. In 1915 he won The Municipal League Prize in Portland, Oregon, on his The Family and Socialized Play, a survey of family and public recreation. He was a member of survey staffs at Baltimore, Maryland; Stamford, Connecticut; Manhattan Branches of the YMCA, New York City, and Goose Creek and Waco, Texas. He conducted school evaluations at Orange, Port Neches, Beaumont, Victoria, El Paso, and Kingsville, Texas. He served for many years on the Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Austin. During World War II, he served as State Supervisor of Physical Fitness, Health, and Emergency Medical Services, Texas Civilian Defense (1942-44), as Principal Specialist in Physical Fitness, U.S. Office of Education, and on the Committee on Physical Fitness (1943-44).

Dr. Brace was one of the pioneers in research in physical education, particularly in the area of testing. The Brace Motor Ability Test, which has

been widely used, was the first of its kind to be developed through modern scientific methods. He also published in 1924 the first achievement tests in baseball and basketball and was the first to apply the T-scale technique in the construction of achievement scales for athletic skills. He continued his work in skill testing even after retirement and was the person primarily responsible for the publication of the skill tests manuals currently available from the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. Other areas in which he was a pioneer in research include the use of the practice test in motor learning studies, assessment of motor performance of the mentally retarded, and the use of the critical incident technique in the development of standards in sportsmanship in athletics and physical education. He reported his research widely in many journals, publishing more than one hundred articles, and was the author of or contributor to ten books.

Dr. Brace was unusually active in professional associations and held offices and served on committees in most of the twenty organizations in which he held membership. He served three terms, from 1927 to 1930, as President of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and it was under his leadership that the Association was instrumental in getting the Texas Legislature to pass a law requiring the teaching of physical education in the public schools. He was President of the Southern District of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in 1933 and was one of the founders and first Chairman of the Research Council of the AAHPER in 1950-52. In 1939 he became a Fellow in the American Academy of Physical Education and served as its President in 1952-53. He was a Charter Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, which was founded in 1954.

Dr. Brace received many awards and honors in recognition of his achievements. Among these are the Honor Awards of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in 1933, the Southern District of the AAHPER in 1951, and of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation the first year it was established, in 1956. He was cited in 1960 by the American Recreation Society for his promotion of recreation in the South and Southwest, and in 1961, the National Recreation Association bestowed on him a Certificate of Appreciation for his services to research. In 1963 he was the recipient of the Luther Halsey Gulick Award, the highest honor conferred by the AAHPER on its members. The American Academy likewise recognized his achievements with its highest honor, the Clark W. Hetherington Award. In addition to these recognitions, he has been listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who Among North American Authors, and Who's Who in American Education.

Dr. Brace traveled widely. In addition to the three and one-half years he spent in China, he has visited Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark. Photography was one of his many hobbies, and for many years he took the movies of the Longhorn football games. He had a keen interest in athletics, serving as Chairman of the Athletic Council at the University in 1929-30.

Dr. Brace was a devoted husband and father and maintained a keen interest in community affairs. He was a congenial administrator and was well liked and respected by his colleagues on the campus and in professional organizations. He was a man of vision and foresight and had a profound influence on the development of hundreds of individuals, many of whom are state and national leaders today. His pioneering efforts and dedicated service have contributed immeasurably to the development of the health, physical education, and recreation in America.

Lynn W. McCraw, Chairman  
Mary Buice Alderson  
James W. Reynolds  
John O. Rodgers

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