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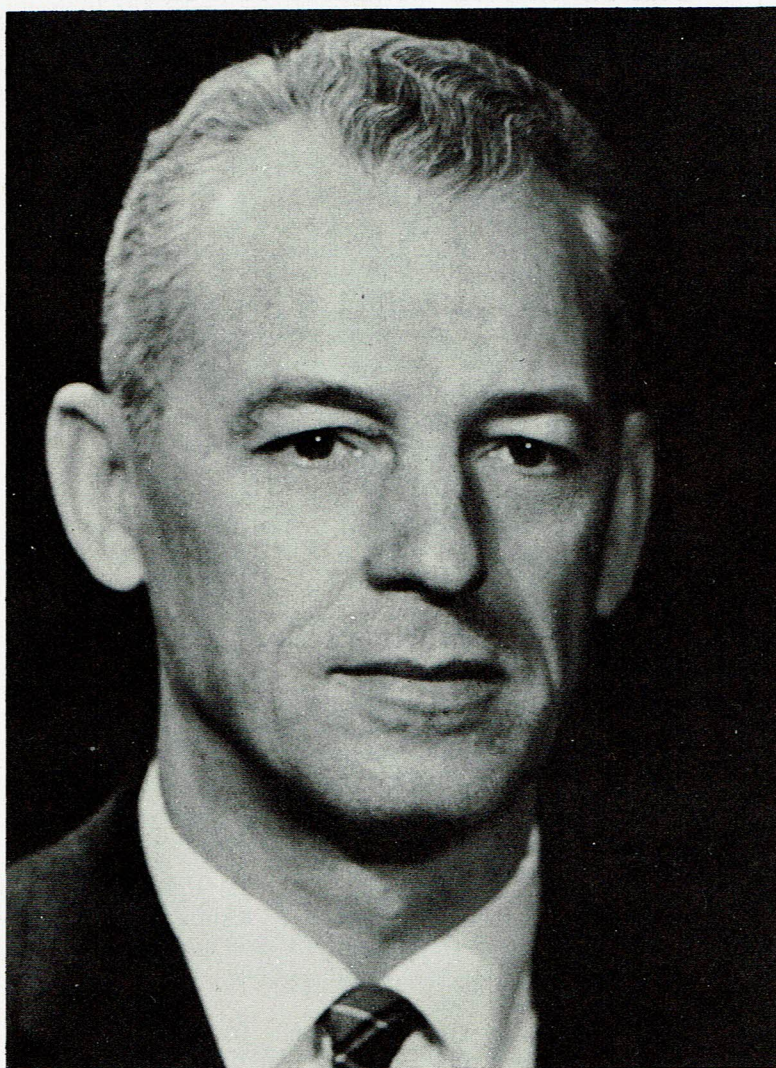
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**DR. J. GORDON CARLSON**



## DOCTOR J. GORDON CARLSON, 1961 PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

J. Gordon Carlson was born in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1908. He attended the public schools of Port Allegany and Buffalo, New York, graduating from Port Allegany High School in 1925.

His undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania were interrupted in March of 1929, when he left to attend the Fourth Pacific Science Congress in Java, with visits to Hawaii, Japan, China, Australia, Fiji, and Samoa, returning in August. He re-entered the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, serving as Assistant in Zoology, and received the A.B. degree the following February with a major in zoology and a minor in botany.

The beginning of his graduate studies in zoology at the University of Pennsylvania the second semester coincided with his appointment as Part-time Demonstrator in Biology at Bryn Mawr College. While continuing his graduate work at the University he taught at Bryn Mawr College as Demonstrator and subsequently as Instructor in Biology. Summers were spent in study at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. His doctoral thesis, under the supervision of the well-known cytologist, Dr. C. E. McClung, was concerned with a comparison of the structure of certain chromosomes in the germ cells of several closely related genera of grasshoppers. He received the Ph.D. degree in 1935.

In the fall of that year he joined the faculty of the University of Alabama as Instructor in Zoology, becoming Assistant Professor in 1939, and Associate Professor in 1945. The latter half of the summer of 1936 he taught cytology at the Mountain Lake Biological Station in Virginia. As Guest Investigator at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he began studies on the effects of X-rays on the neuroblast cells of the grasshopper embryo in the summer of 1937 under the sponsorship of Dr. Berwind P. Kaufmann, and continued this work there in the summer of 1938 and at the Bussey Institute of Harvard University in the summer of 1939 under the sponsorship of Dr. Karl Sax.

Dr. Carlson was on a leave-of-absence from the University of Alabama from June, 1940, through August, 1941, as Rockefeller Fellow in the Natural Sciences. His work was concerned with the effects of X-rays on chromosomes and cell division. The



two summers were spent at the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory; the remainder of the time was spent at the then new Genetics Laboratory of Dr. L. R. Stadler at the University of Missouri. It was during this year that a method of maintaining the neuroblasts of the grasshopper embryo in hanging-drop preparations in artificial culture medium was developed by him and used for the first time for the study of cytological effects of X-rays and ultraviolet radiation.

During the Second World War accidental exposures of the eyes of workers in the shipbuilding industry to ultraviolet radiations from the welder's arc was a cause of temporary but painful damage to the cornea and considerable loss in man hours of production. The U.S. Public Health Service through its Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory became interested in this problem, and Dr. Carlson was appointed to investigate with Dr. Alexander Hollaender the effects of ultraviolet radiations on living cells. In the fall of 1946 he joined the staff of the Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory at Bethesda, Maryland, as Senior Biologist with the group headed by Dr. Hollaender.

The following June Dr. Carlson left the U.S. Public Health Service to return to academic life as Professor of Zoology and Head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at The University of Tennessee. His teaching and research activities there have centered about cytology and radiation biology. As Consultant in Biology he has cooperated in research programs at the Biology Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

In 1955 he served as Chairman of the Zoology Section and Vice-President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he has been a Fellow since 1942. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Southeastern Biologists. Dr. Carlson is a member of a number of other professional societies, including the following: American Association of University Professors, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Society of Naturalists, American Society of Zoologists, Genetics Society of America, Radiation Research Society, and the Tennessee Education Association. Honorary societies of which he is a member are Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. He was a member of the First and Third International Congresses of Photobiology at Amsterdam in 1954 and at Copenhagen in 1960, respectively, presenting papers at symposia of these congresses.

In 1936, Dr. Carlson was married to Elizabeth Shirley of Tuscaloosa, who was then Instructor in Mathematics at the University of Alabama. Their children are Shirley Johns, age 18, Bette Walker, age 17, and James Marvin, age 11. Mrs. Carlson is now Instructor in Mathematics at The University of Tennessee.