

In Memoriam

EDWIN PRINCE BOOTH

APRIL 26, 1898–DECEMBER 26, 1969

Besides being a member of *Zygon's* Editorial Board, Edwin Prince Booth is one of those who more than a decade before *Zygon* was born worked and inspired others toward our goals. In a letter of June 19, 1957, this professor of historical theology at the Boston University School of Theology and first president of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science included the following in a letter to members of the Institute: "We are in the midst of one of the most delicate stabilizations in the history of thought that we have known. For any civilization fully to understand, first, what the various sciences are yielding descriptively and, second, to comprehend what this means for the cultural patterns in ethics and religion, is a task of considerable magnitude." In an earlier 1950 message to a Star Island conference, he said: "The situation in which we find ourselves is of so serious a nature as to require a complete re-formation of the patterns of life and thought under which we have been living."

Booth was a leader in the movement toward a scientifically based or integrated theology. In his life as a professor of theology in the Protestant Christian community during the middle quarters of the twentieth century, he suffered the misunderstanding and neglect by that community that was characteristically the fate of anyone holding such a position. But he labored with courage and effectiveness. He attempted translations of the Ten Commandments and other religious ideas into the concepts of modern science. Most importantly, he inspired others to work in this area, and *Zygon's* existence owes much to Ted Booth. At numerous meetings and conferences on religion and science he continually urged that in the dialogue preachers and theologians should very carefully listen and learn; they should respond only after they had understood in some depth what the scientists were saying and could propose some positive ways of relating it with man's religious quest.

EDITOR