



ALBERT TYLER

1906-1968

Albert Tyler, Caltech professor of biology and a member of the faculty since 1929, died on November 9 of a heart attack. He was 62.

Dr. Tyler was born in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Columbia University and received his BA there in 1927. Although he had been a chemistry student, he became interested in the work of Columbia's great geneticist, Thomas Hunt Morgan, and he asked Morgan to take him as a graduate student. When Morgan came to Caltech in 1928 to start the biology division, Albert Tyler transferred with him and became the first student to earn a PhD in biology at Caltech (in 1929) and the last graduate student of Dr. Morgan.

In his years at the Institute, Dr. Tyler helped bring about a basic change in his field—the expansion of classical experimental embryology into modern developmental science, with its emphasis on genetics and molecular biology. He was well grounded in classical embryology, especially of marine invertebrates. He was one of the first scientists to apply modern physiological and biochemical methods to the study of development.

Tyler made some of his greatest contributions through his research on fertilization. He was especially known for his work on the chemistry and physiology of the fertilization process and for his contributions to the fertilizin-antifertilizin theory.

During the last ten years of his life, Albert Tyler turned his attention to studies of the macromolecular events during embryogenesis in the sea urchin, and especially to the role of "masked messenger" RNA and the properties and developmental role of cytoplasmic DNA.

Dr. Tyler was a trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., for 14 years. He served on numerous committees and as a consultant to various organizations, among them the National Science Foundation and the World Health Organization. He had also been president of the Society of General Physiologists and of the American Society of Naturalists.

Colleagues and friends paid tribute to Dr. Tyler and to his work at the Institute at a memorial service held in Dabney Lounge on the Caltech campus on November 18.