

WATSON SMITH RANKIN, Trustee of the Duke Endowment, and for a quarter of a century Director of its Hospital and Orphan Section, Professor of Pathology and from 1905 to 1909 Dean of the Wake Forest Medical School, Secretary of the North Carolina State Board of Health for sixteen years, native of this State, was educated at Davidson, the North Carolina Medical College, the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins. When, in 1909, the office of Secretary of the State Board of Health was made a full-time position, the choice fell on Dr. Rankin, who was recommended as "a most capable and efficient young man of promise." Living up fully to this prophecy, he began at once to apply those far-reaching measures which grew out of his own scientific work in the control of the hookworm disease, malaria, and tuberculosis. Evangelist of good health, he preached in season and out the need for better rural sanitation, for school health programs, for sanitary oversight of hotels and restaurants, and for the creation of effective agencies for health betterment in North Carolina. Honored by his colleagues with positions of responsibility, including the Secretaryship and the Presidency of the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, and the Presidency of the American Public Health Association, the highest honor in his profession; prominent in the councils of the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and other groups, Dr. Rankin has crowded his life with activities devoted to the welfare of others. For the Duke Endowment, he has administered with skill and justice the distribution of more than twenty million dollars to make possible the care and healing of untold thousands.

Pioneer in public health service in this State, scientist and able administrator, he stands now in the autumn of a career of service to the people of North Carolina; and it is altogether fitting that this University, now the center of public health instruction in this region, should bestow on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Commencement, 1955.