

Otterbein's New President Inaugurated

By Bob Whipp, Publicity Director

OTTERBEIN College at Westerville, Ohio, inaugurated its first president in thirty-five years Saturday morning, November 4, with Dr. J. Ruskin Howe, forty-three years of age, becoming the fourteenth head of the institution. Dr. Walter G. Clippinger, who on August 31 completed thirty years as president of Otterbein College, had no formal inauguration.

Saturday was also home-coming day and hundreds of alumni returned, many for the first time since graduation, to participate in the joint celebration.

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Nobel Prize winner and the Charles H. Swift distinguished service professor of physics

annual alumni banquet. This was followed by a play, presented by members of the public speaking department of the college.

Dean Brane and Mr. Kline were in charge of inaugural arrangements. Working with them on the official inaugural committee were Dr. E. B. Learish of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, vice chairman of the board of trustees; Dr. E. L. Weinland, of Columbus, Ohio, secretary of the board; Mr. Hoover as president of the Alumni association; and three professors, Gilbert E. Mills, A. P. Rosselot and George McCracken.

Doctor Howe is the fourteenth president, but only thirteen men have held the position, as one man served twice. William R. Griffith was the first president, serving from the founding of Otterbein in 1847 until two years later when William Davis took the position. Lewis Davis served two terms, the first from 1850 to 1857 and again from 1860 to 1871. Alexander Owen was president from 1857 to 1860. Daniel Eberly was president only one year, 1871-72, when he was replaced by Henry A. Thompson, who served from 1872 to 1886.

Rev. Henry Garst became president in 1886. The college was then known as Otterbein University and he served until 1889 when C. A. Bowersox was appointed. He relinquished the position to Dr. T. J. Sanders, who served from 1891 to 1901.

Doctor George Scott, for many years professor of Latin, was president from 1901 to 1904, when Dr. Lewis Bookwalter was inaugurated.

The record of Dr. W. G. Clippinger, who became president emeritus when he turned over the office to Doctor Howe, is unequaled in the history of the college. During his term great advances were made. Otterbein became known throughout the country through its president, who served as president of the Ohio Council of Religious Education for more than twenty years, president of the Ohio Anti-Saloon League since 1923 and on many national education and religious education committees.

Otterbein's new president is the son of the late Dr. D. N. Howe, who founded and became the first president of Manchester College at North Manchester, Indiana. The Howe family moved to northern Ohio and John Ruskin was graduated from Weston high school. He taught country classes four years, then enrolled at Otterbein.

His studies at Otterbein were interrupted by the World War. He served as a sergeant in the 83rd Ohio division's 308th ammunition train in France. He returned to Westerville to be graduated with an A.B. degree in 1921. He later studied at Bonebrake Theological seminary and Yale Divinity school, receiving the B.D. degree from Yale in 1924. In 1926 he received the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Yale university and in 1935 the honorary Doctor of Divinity from Otterbein.

While at Yale he served four years as assistant pastor of the First Congregational church at Danbury, Connecticut. In Dayton, he served as acting pastor of Ohmer Park Reformed church for the last two years.

Doctor J. R. Howe came to Otterbein after serving on the faculty of Bone-



Dr. J. Ruskin Howe

at the University of Chicago, was the guest speaker for the inaugural service, which was held in the First United Brethren church. The church was filled and arrangements were made for an overflow crowd to hear the proceedings. Professor Compton is known for his cosmic ray experiments. His subject was, "Science, Religion and a Stable Society."

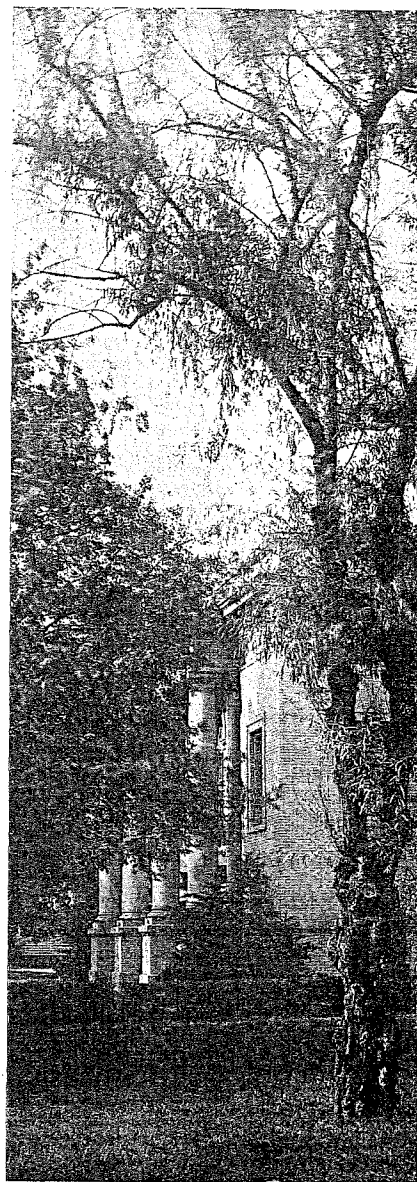
Official delegates included presidents and representatives of more than one hundred of the leading colleges and universities of the middle west, all of whom were in the academic procession across the campus to the church, led by Doctor Howe and Doctor Clippinger.

Homer B. Kline, of Edgewood, Pennsylvania, chairman of the board of trustees of Otterbein college, installed the new president. Dr. Dennis D. Brane, dean of the college, presided at the inaugural service.

Following the inaugural service in the church, a luncheon was served in the Alumni gymnasium, where prominent officials made brief talks.

A football game with Marietta college was followed by a reception for the guests and alumni at the home of President and Mrs. Howe.

At six o'clock at the First United Brethren church dining hall, Earl R. Hoover, '26, of Cleveland, president of the Alumni Association, presided at the



United Brethren Church, Westerville, O.

brake Theological Seminary since 1926.

Mrs. Howe is the former Miss Mary Elizabeth Brewbaker, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Brewbaker of Dayton. Mrs. Howe for a number of years directed the children's work of the United Brethren Church. They have two sons, Charles W., eight, and John R. Jr., four.

Young people of the middle west know Doctor Howe because of his connections with the International Council of Religious Education camp at Conference Point, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and as director of Camp Indianola, near Lancaster, Ohio, for nine years. He was dean of the Dayton Leadersip Training school for nine years.

As a sports fan, Doctor Howe, while in Dayton, was chairman of the Y.M.C.A. tennis committee and on the squash racquet and handball committees, also was one of the leading players.