Sprau was a member of Neilson's class; and a friendship and mutual respect began between the two men that led Mr. Sprau to invite his friend to join him in 1917 at the relatively new Western State Normal School in Kalamazoo.

It was in the East also that William Brown met Emma Wales, who had been a librarian in Newton and who became his wife in 1915. Emma Wales came from a venerable Massachusetts family tracing its heritage back to John and Priscilla Alden. More important, she possessed a warmth and dignity in her own person that fitted well with Dr. Brown's exuberant personality and brought hospitality and friendship to faculty and students alike at Western for many years. Her death in January 1968 was an irreparable loss to her friends as well as to him.

During the many happy years of their marriage the Browns made warm and welcome contributions to Kalamazoo as well as to Western. As members of the First Methodist Church, they participated whole-heartedly in parish activities; Dr. Brown, for several years, played the organ and sang in the choir. The Civic Theatre knew him as an actor. Once he played the lead in Candida opposite his colleague, Laura Shaw. His reputation as speaker and book-reviewer was impressive, for he made literature live for laymen as well as scholars.

At Western his services extended beyond his classroom. His tact, his dignity, and his responsive personality brought grace and order to receptions and other social functions For twenty years he was in charge of Commencement arrangements. He advised senior classes officially and seniors unofficially. The Language Club, begun by Mr. Sprau, flourished under his enthusiasm. The Browns' home was hospitably open to students, who came Saturday afternoons to drink tea and listen to operas broadcast from the "Met" and Sunday evenings to read poetry and drama together and enjoy Mrs. Brown's delicious suppers. Dr. Brown's very personality brought together in lasting meaning for the student the academic world and the world outside.

Such interest in young people led to the Browns taking six young men on the "grand tour" of Europe in 1929, a sabbatical in 1933-34 having prepared them excellently for their role as guides. More vitally, this interest led to their adopting two boys in 1925 to share their home: Edwin Brown, now of Colorado, South Dakota, and Albert Brown of Odessa, Texas.

No man was ever more naturally a teacher than Dr. Brown. Through his many years as a member of the English Department, and as its head from 1946 to 1956, he taught a variety of classes. Countless students, now scattered over the country, remember his General Literature, his English Novel, and his Shakespeare classes, in which his splendid voice and natural dramatic ability gave such color and life to literature that it became an enduring part of them. Whether they became English teachers, football coaches, or lawyers, David Copperfield and Hamlet would henceforth have meaning, and Dr. Brown would remain their friend.

"A teacher affects eternity," wrote Henry Adams. "He can never tell where his influence stops." Surely it is the lengthened shadow of such men as Dr. Brown, extending through a university and the lines of its students, that determines its greatness and force. Nothing can replace great teachers, but the solid and graceful walls of Brown Hall will be a lasting reminder of one of them.