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James Bernard Macelwane, S.J.

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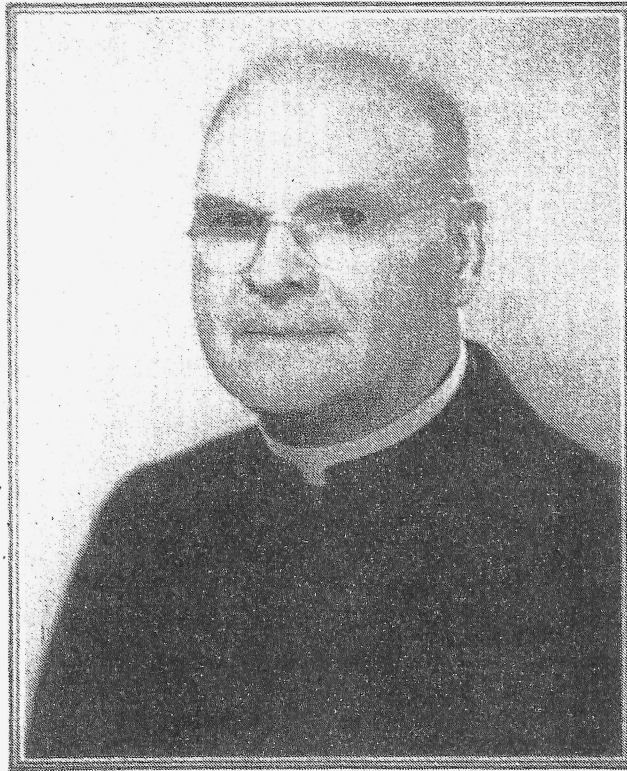
VICTOR J. BLUM, S.J.

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### James Bernard Macelwane, S.J.

James Bernard Macelwane, S.J., was born on September 28, 1883, on the northern shore of Sandusky Bay near Port Clinton, Ohio. He was the second oldest of nine children, five boys and four girls. He received his early education at a public school about a mile and one-half from his home. From 1901-1903 he attended the high school

course of studies required of Jesuits who are being trained for the priesthood. Except for some years of teaching, he gave his attention to ancient and modern languages, literature, and history, to the natural sciences and mathematics, to philosophy and psychology, and to dogmatic, moral, and ascetical theology. These years of study culmi-



JAMES BERNARD MACELWANE

President, American Geophysical Union, 1953-1956

of Saint John's College in Toledo, Ohio. On August 31, 1903, he joined the Jesuit Order.

After two years of study and ascetical life as a novice, he took the religious vows as a Jesuit on September 8, 1905. Thereafter he followed the

nated in ordination to the Catholic priesthood in 1918.

Father Macelwane's early preferences in the matter of specialized study lay in the field of classical languages, and he took his M.A. degree

in 1911. He had shown a marked talent in scientific studies. Hence, at the bidding of his religious superiors, he then pursued courses in physics and mathematics, taking an M.S. degree in 1912. Because his first formal studies in physics were pursued at Saint Louis University where a seismograph was installed in 1909, he became interested in the theory of the seismograph. He was coauthor of an article entitled "Physics of the Seismograph." This was his first technical paper; it was published in 1911.

In 1921 he took up study for the doctorate in physics, seismology, and mathematics at the University of California in Berkeley. After taking the Ph.D. in 1923, he stayed for two more years at the University of California as an Assistant Professor of Geology. During these two years he organized graduate study in geophysics and had charge of the seismographic stations of the University at Berkeley and at Lick Observatory on Mount Wilson. In 1925 he was appointed Professor of Geophysics and Director of the new Department of Geophysics in Saint Louis University, a position he held until his death.

Father Macelwane's many years at Saint Louis University will be remembered by reason of his important academic developments and services. In addition to his research in geophysics which he carried on continuously, he left a deep organizational and scholarly imprint on the University's Graduate School of which he was Dean from 1927 to 1933. In the fall of 1944 he established and was the first Dean of the Institute of Technology, the University's School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. Although he served on many University committees, was a member of the Board of Trustees, and was engaged in numerous extra-University labors in addition to his normal administrative duties, he always managed to teach at least one, and usually two, courses up until the time he was hospitalized in November, 1955. He wrote several books, and 133 technical papers of his appeared in various learned journals.

Because of his broad and sympathetic interests, his services were in constant demand. In 1947 he was appointed to the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense. Two years later he became a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the USAF. In 1952 he was appointed a member of the Committee on Institutional Research Policy of the American Council on Education. A presidential appointment made him a member of the National Science Board of the National Science Foundation in 1954. More recently he was appointed Chairman of the United

States Technical Panel on Seismology and Gravity for the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958.

He was a member of over two dozen learned and professional societies, in many of which he was chosen by his colleagues to serve in various official capacities. In 1926 he became a member of the American Geophysical Union. His membership was of an active character. He was Vice Chairman of the Section of Seismology, 1935-1938; President of the Section, 1938-1941; a member of the Executive Committee in 1947. In 1953 he was elected President of AGU; he was in his third year of this office when he died.

Through his effective leadership the Jesuit Seismological Association was organized in 1925. He was annually elected President of it until his death. The Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America was also formed in 1925, and Father Macelwane's name is numbered among those who were instrumental in its establishment.

Many honors came to him. In 1948 the AGU William Bowie Medal was bestowed on him. He received four honorary degrees, was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, received the Villanova University Mendel Medal, and was given the AIME Jackling Lecture Award. He was a Fellow in a number of learned societies and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Undoubtedly, one of Father Macelwane's favored diversions from his many labors was to engage in field geology. He personally conducted a number of geology camps for students in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies in the vicinity of Canon City. Those who participated in these geological expeditions will remember him as a delightful companion and as a man of untiring zeal in searching out the Earth's history as revealed in its exposed rocks.

Because of general fatigue and intestinal disturbances he was hospitalized on November 21, 1955. An exploratory operation on December 19 revealed acute necrosis of the liver and later evidence also showed serious impairment of the kidneys. Although he suffered little pain in his last weeks of illness, he impressed all by the great patience with which he conducted himself during the many weeks of hospital inconveniences. He died peacefully at 7:40 a.m., February 15, 1956. He is survived by three brothers and three sisters, John Patrick, Alexander Patrick, Arthur Aloysius, Sister Mary Perpetua, O.S.U., Mother John Baptist, O.S.U., and Mary Helen Macelwane.

Victor J. Blum, S.J.