

PROFESSOR ROOT, LIBRARIAN HERE FOR YEARS, DIES

Passes Away Sunday Afternoon After
Operation Wednesday—Funeral
Today in Chapel

WAS LEADER IN OWN FIELD

Held National and State Offices and
Lectured at Several Uni-
versities

Last Sunday afternoon there passed out of Oberlin life one of its best known and most loved citizens, Professor Azariah Smith Root, librarian of the college for forty years.

Professor Root underwent an operation last Wednesday and died Sunday afternoon at Allen Memorial hospital of heart failure. Funeral services were held at 3:30 p. m. today at Finney chapel. Afternoon classes in the college were dismissed in order to give students an opportunity to attend the funeral.

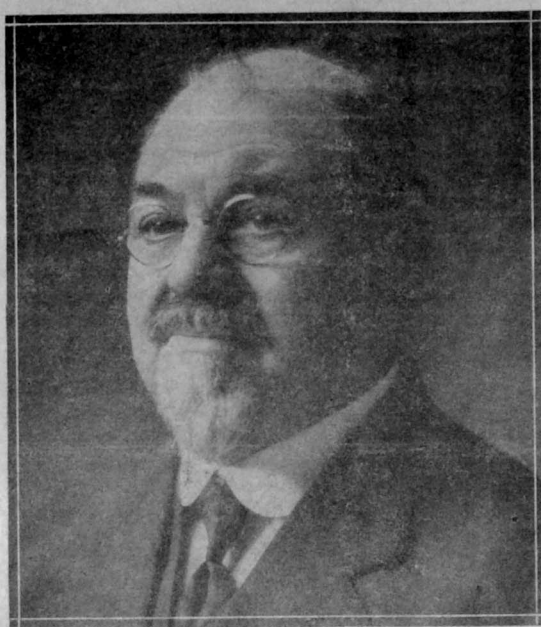
Professor Root was born Feb. 3, 1862, at Middlefield, Mass. Besides being associated with the college as its librarian and as professor of bibliography, he was graduated from Oberlin as a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1884, and received his M. A. here in 1897. In continuation of his studies here he took work at Harvard law school, at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and in Holland.

In his chosen field Professor Root was considered first. He at different times has held the posts of president of the American Library Association, and of the Library Association of Ohio and acting head of the New York Public Library School.

He has lectured many years at Columbia University, Western Reserve University, and the University of Michigan. During the World war he was for two years government commissioner to build and equip libraries in army camps.

President Ernest H. Wilkins relates that at the University of Chicago, when a librarian was wanted and a nation-wide search was made, everywhere the name of Professor Root was the first to be recommended.

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PROFESSOR AZARIAH SMITH ROOT

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Besides being a leader in this field, he had the distinction of being one of the founders of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

Professor Root, although so prominent nationally, gave much of his time to Oberlin. He made the library here the largest college library in the country while it was formerly one of only mediocre importance. He was for many years a member of the Prudential committee of Oberlin and as