スミス先生の思い出

西川孝治郎

ロイ・スミス先生（1878年6月14日生）は昭和43年90歳に達させられ、3月神戸大学の教壇を退いて、5月末に神戸を立ち、故国オハイオ州イースト・クリーブランドの合息のもとに帰られた。先生を送るにあたって、友人と教え子たちは3月20日大学の庭に胸像を建て、大学は名誉教授の称号を呈し、日本政府も勲2等瑞宝章を贈与して功績を表彰した。のちに政府は終身年金贈呈のことを決め、兵庫県も国際文化賞（第1号）を追贈した。

私は本会会員中ただ一人の先生の教え子であり、去る41年2月12日池田一重久先生等の神戸六甲・長崎山スミス先生訪問にも随行した。本会研究報告第47号「日本における英語教師六十年」はこの時の記事である。私は大正5年から9年までの間、神戸高等商業学校において予科の英習字と本科一年の英文簿記と本科三年の外国貿易実務とを教わった。英習字では明瞭な字体を迅速に、疲れないように書くことを目標にし、指を動かさずに腕で書け——先生はこれをMuscular movementという——と教えられた。この書風は五十余年後の今日でも、なお我々同志生の間に残っている。

本科一年の簿記では初めに、Correctness, Neatness and Speedの必要を教えられた。次に借方・貸方の差額の算出は、"大数－小数＝差額でなくIncrease the smaller quantity to make debit and credit balance"と教えられた。これはアメリカ人が店頭でつり
Some Random Thought on being a Teacher

Roy Smith

A teacher lives in the lives of his students. He may or may not, be a great teacher, but in any case it is his students who make him famous, or do not do so. The significant thing about his work is whom he teaches, not what he teaches.

"Be ambitious, Boys" has been a famous saying, passed about here and there in Japan for the last half century or more. That was a commonplace remark for a teacher
to make to his students when Mr. Clark in Hokkaido made it some fifty years or so ago. The remark itself was commonplace, but the boys to whom he made it were not commonplace. At least a few of them were nobly ambitious. It has been they who passed this saying on from person to person, here and there. It has been they who made this name "Clark" known throughout the country.

I have been a teacher during this last half century and more in Japan, and occasionally I talk with some person who seems deeply impressed when he thinks of whom I have taught. At the same time he may show very little, if any, interest in what I have been teaching.

Personality is often more important in the classroom than subject content. A short time ago one of the "Old Boys" asked me to speak to a meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association of which he happened to be president at the time. He frankly said, "I have forgotten everything you taught us in the regular class sessions. It is what you said in the Bible class that I wish you to say to the members of the P.T.A." I thought I was teaching him Accounting, but it is not that which he now remembers learning.

A teacher sometimes does not know what he is teaching.
his students. He may think he is teaching one thing, but it may be something different that the students are really learning.

Any person who is ambitious to accumulate financial wealth for himself, would be foolish to become a teacher. However, if his ambition is to pass on to posterity some ideas that he believes to be significant, or even to pass on his own personality, he will have an opportunity to do that in the classroom.

Some one has said that you do not really know a thing until you have forgotten it. It is when a certain idea, or attitude, has become so deeply imbedded in your own personality that you are no longer conscious of it, that it has become truly a part of your personality. It is then that you know it, but you do not know that you know it. It is simply a part of you.

The businessman who meets his fellow businessmen one by one, day after day, works at addition. He scatters seeds that fall into soil that is fertile and deep, seeds that go on growing, and even scattering themselves, long after the teacher and classroom have passed into the dim forgotten past.