Professor Slater graduated from Rutger's University in 1913 and went to the University of New Jersey. He got his Master's degree from Syracuse in 1917 and his second Master's degree in 1919. He went to the University of Washington various summers and was principal of the Normal Department at Leland University from 1914-1915. He became professor of biology at the College of Puget Sound in 1919.

Prof. Slater was much beloved by every student generation that knew him. He took countless numbers of students on trips - biological trips and botany trips, and he was very proud of the fact that he had worked on the classification of animals and plants all over the State of Washington. He was one of the men who helped to found the University of Puget Sound Museum, and did a great deal in training outstanding students who contributed to the development of the museum.

He was married and in the latter part of his life his wife became an invalid with a very difficult kind of arthritic condition. She was in a wheel chair and he took very, very wonderful care of her always.

He developed some very outstanding students. Dr. Howard Erwin of the Botanical Gardens in New York City and one of the world's authorities was one of his students, as was
Dr. Gordon Alcorn, who has been head of the Biology Department at the University of Puget Sound for many years. Dr. Alcorn was an alumnus of the College of Puget Sound, was then a teacher, and then became president of Grays Harbor Junior College. He came to me one day and said he would like to teach for us and not be involved in administration so he has been with us for many, many years.

Another one of Prof. Slater's outstanding students was Dr. Murray Johnson, who is an M.D. and surgeon and one who is much interested in the museum.

Through the years Dr. Slater was one of the outstanding loyal and dedicated faculty members, much liked by his colleagues, his students, the townspeople, the churchpeople, and in his productive years was considered a very ideal faculty member.

His wife was a very severe arthritic case and he kept looking to see if there was anyplace where she might be benefited by changing to a different climate. He came to me one day and said he wanted to retire early because of the fact that they would move to Florida as it had been suggested by her doctor and others that if she were to live in Florida, the arthritis might not be so severe. He set a date for retirement and he did. Before he went to Florida, I wrote to my friend, who was president of Florida Southern College, which is a sister school in the Methodist Association, and told
him that Dr. Slater was going to be in his city, that he
was an ideal professor, and I was sure he would be a very
good faculty member if they were interested in his services.
I gave Dr. Slater a letter of introduction and he told me that
as soon as they arrived and found a living place, he went over
to Florida Southern College and presented the letter and talked
to the president. The president asked him what he would teach
and he told him biology, botany, and allied subjects. The
president told him to report to the dean the next morning. He
reported to the dean and the next morning he had one section in
botany, one section in biology, and of all things, one section
in English composition.

Dr. Slater later told me that he was utility man
from then on and would fit in wherever they had need for him.

One of the disappointing facts was that the climate
did not help Mrs. Slater and, as a matter of fact, the humidity
somehow or other aggravated her situation. In the meantime,
his years of service had been so outstanding and meaningful to
the College of Puget Sound that I asked the Faculty Committee
and the Board of Trustees to allow us to give him an Honorary
Doctor's Degree. This was approved and the procedures were
worked out for Professor Slater to get an Honorary Doctorate.
Upon research, I found that he had done a great deal of work
toward a Doctor's Degree and, evidently, his major professor
either retired or died tragically and it was not feasible
for him to reconstruct much of the work which had been done with the man with whom he had hoped to get his degree in his earlier years.

In his later years, Dr. Slater has been very much involved with the museum. I was aware of the fact that Dr. Slater had been rather frugal and had inherited some money and had considerable resources. I asked him if he would be interested in an annuity with the College of Puget Sound. He said he would be happy to have an annuity with us. This was the first of many gifts and he is still giving money to the University in amounts of $5,000 or more. He is well nigh into 90 years of age now and is still helping the University with its development program.

Dr. Slater has spanned a wider period of time in the faculty history of the University of Puget Sound than any other person at present and he has an unusual following. Most of his friends call him "Prof" and that has become the common name by which he has been known through all the years. He has been a very dedicated, loyal and precious professor and the University of Puget Sound is very much indebted to him for his outstanding life service.