alizations, who is able to bring order out of our chaos and with our units construct the great structures of human thought which we call principles."

Looking back upon Marbut's career today, we believe that he will amply qualify as a "great architect of human generalizations."

Dr. Marbut: The Geologist

Clayton H. Johnson

Dr. Marbut's Geologic Career

Dr. Curtis Fletcher Marbut's geologic career and his professional geological contributions can be divided into phases. The former began when he enrolled, at the age of 22 years, in the Univ. of Missouri, Columbia in 1885. After studying under Professors J. G. Norwood and Garland Carr Broadhead, he received the B.S. degree in geology in 1889, thus ending the first phase.

The second phase from 1890 into 1983 was marked by his employment as geologist on the Missouri Geological Survey. Although none of the results of his field investigations were published during this period, data that he gathered were used in later publications.

The third phase was as a graduate student at Harvard University during 1983 to 1985, where he received the M.A. degree in geology in 1894 and completed resident requirements for the Ph.D. degree in 1895. His dissertation, based on his field investigations as geologist with the Missouri Geological Survey, was submitted and approved in 1896. However, Dr. Marbut did not return to Harvard for his final oral examinations and therefore did not receive the Ph.D. degree.

As a student at Harvard, Dr. Marbut studied under Professors Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, William Morris Davis, and J. B. Woodworth. Professor Davis, generally considered to be the "father of physiographic thought in America," greatly influenced Dr. Marbut, whose contributions to geology and soil science reflect the importance he placed on the role of physiography. As a graduate student, Dr. Marbut worked with Professors Shaler and Woodworth on several field problems. From this experience he learned the value, to himself and to the students, of using students as field assistants. Dr. Marbut's field work with Shaler led to several early publications.

The fourth phase covered the period 1895 to 1910 during which Marbut's interests and efforts were divided, although unequally, between the Missouri Geological Survey and the Dep. of Geology of the Univ. of Missouri in Columbia. He renewed his association with the Missouri Geological Survey in the summer of 1895 after completing residency requirements for the Ph.D. degree at Harvard University. In the fall of 1895, he accepted an instructorship in the Dep. of Geology at Missouri...