

The Life and Contributions of Alfred David Browne (1879–1952).

P. Graham Hatcher

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

A. D. Browne was born in Belfast, Ireland, educated in the Philadelphia schools, and attended Springfield and the University of North Carolina, before receiving his M.D. at the University of Tennessee. A pioneer in the summer camp movement, he was early impressed with the need for preventive medicine. He first combined his medical preparation with a directorship of Physical Education in the Newton, Massachusetts, public schools. Browne served in capacities of Medical Advisor, Physical Education Professor, Athletic Director, and Coach at six universities in the United States. His early career in athletic administration culminated with ascendancy to Vice-President of the NCAA while at Stanford University, and his efforts paved the way for representation from the West Coast within the organization. His approach to building athletics from a wide base of student body participation was typically seen in his programming efforts to provide inclination and opportunity for mass participation. Browne's later career was exclusively in professional preparation program development and, after leaving Stanford, he organized the Department of Physical Education at George Peabody College and later the School of Health and Physical Education at Louisiana State University. As president of two district associations (Western and Southern) of the American Physical Education Association, Browne became nationally recognized as a leader in teacher preparation and curriculum development in Health and Physical Education during the 1920's and 1930's. Browne was not a prolific writer; however his efforts toward the improvement of the profession led to his receiving the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and Southern District Honor Awards in 1939 and 1952, respectively. Browne was also an acclaimed artist and inventor; his professional and service activities led to his interaction with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Huey Long, and Clarence Darrow. Browne's efforts influenced the course of athletic representation within the NCAA but, most notably, he made significant contributions to the growth of health and physical education in the southern United States.