

## THELMA GWINN THURSTONE

Thelma Gwinn Thurstone is a research psychologist whose work in the measurement of mental abilities and the construction of curricula has been profoundly influential both nationally and internationally. Born in Missouri, she was educated at the University of Missouri, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and at the University of Chicago. For some years she collaborated with her late husband, Louis Leon Thurstone, in their psychometric laboratory at the University of Chicago, constructing tests designed to seek the structure of intellectual performance. In 1952 Dr. Thurstone and her husband joined the faculty of this Institution and established the Psychometric Laboratory here.

Dr. Thurstone has participated in some of the most significant advances in educational measurement in the United States. She developed a reading program, Reading for Understanding, of which she is now preparing a new edition, and a basic skills program for primary children, the Science Research Associates' Learning to Think series. She has given particular attention to the efficacy of regular and special classes for academically retarded students.

Dr. Thurstone's entire life has been a model of academic commitment, intellectual persistence, and curiosity. She says what she thinks without fear or favor, but her important work has been done with good humor as well as integrity. She has personally demonstrated that retirement does not mean an end to a professional career, for she continues to work productively, attend seminars, and give wise counsel and advice to other faculty. For her remarkable achievements in the interest of whole generations of children in this country and abroad, the University now takes great pleasure in commending Dr. Thurstone with this award.