

welcome constructive criticism either of the methods employed or our interpretation of the results obtained, but it is my belief that the better way will be to bring such matters direct to the attention of this office.

Very truly yours,

E. W. NELSON,  
Chief of Bureau.

*U. S. Dept. Agriculture,  
Bureau of Biological Survey,  
Washington, D. C.  
February 28, 1925.*

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

ON February 15, the vacancies in the various classes of members were as follows: Fellows 1, Honorary Fellows 2, Corresponding Fellows 11 and Members 2.

IN this issue appears the list of Deceased Members of the Union which is published once in five years. Since the last list appeared in 1920 there have been 88 additions including the names of 6 Fellows, 4 Honorary Fellows, 21 Corresponding Fellows, 3 Members and 54 Associates. A perusal of this list containing many names well known both in this country and abroad is well worth while. The Fellows who have died during the last five years include three Founders, Allen, Bicknell and Cory; two others elected at the first meeting, Barrows and Dutcher; and William Palmer elected in 1888. A comparison of the lists in the four classes of limited membership brings out several facts of interest. The Fellows and Members are restricted to 150 and the Honorary and Corresponding Fellows to 125 but the deaths among the Fellows, Retired Fellows and Members since the organization of the Union number only 40—a small proportion when compared with the total of 108 among the Foreign Fellows.—T. S. P.

DR. CHARLES BINGHAM PENROSE, of Philadelphia, a life Associate of the A. O. U., died on February 27, 1925, on a train near Washington, D. C., while returning from Aiken, S. C., where he had been spending the winter. He had been in poor health for some years and his condition had recently become critical.

Dr. Penrose was born in Philadelphia on February 1, 1862, the son of Dr. Richard Alexander Fullerton Penrose, one of the City's most noted physicians and for many years professor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and his ancestry can be traced back to many noted figures in the early history of the country. His grandmother was an aunt of Prof. Spencer Fullerton Baird and from another ancestor came the LeContes

noted among the earlier American naturalists, so that it is not difficult to account for his interest in science.

Charles B. Penrose was educated at the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia and at Harvard University where he was a classmate of his brother Boies, later United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and graduated with honors in 1881, at the age of nineteen. He later received from Harvard the degrees of A. M. and Ph.D. while he graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

He at once devoted himself to his profession and became eminent both as a surgeon and as a practitioner as well as a writer on gynecology and other medical subjects. He was connected with many of the Philadelphia hospitals and was for a time a professor at the University of Pennsylvania while he drew up the plan of organization of the State Department of Health and was connected with many other medical activities.

Dr. Penrose was always fond of outdoor life and hunted extensively in the west while he possessed a wide knowledge of zoology. He served as a member and as president of the State Game Commission and also of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, while he was a member of the Council of the Academy of Natural Sciences. During the years that he directed the affairs of the Zoological Society the Garden made a notable advance especially in eliminating disease among the animals which was largely brought about by the establishment of the pathological laboratory which he had planned. During the last years of his life the Zoological Garden was his chief interest and he gave to its affairs his most careful attention. While not actively engaged in zoological research he kept fully abreast of the work of others and possessed the ability to have become a great naturalist had he not preferred to devote his life to medicine.

Possessed of a brilliant intellect and an attractive personality he was a delightful companion to those with whom he was intimate but he was of a retiring disposition and averse to publicity and but few of his associates had any idea of the breadth and scope of his knowledge.

Dr. Penrose was married in 1892 to Miss Katharine Drexel who died in 1918, and leaves two children and two brothers: Dr. Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr., a geologist of note and president of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and Spencer Penrose, of Colorado Springs, Colo.—W. S.

DR. CHARLES EUSEBE DIONNE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1893, died at the city of Quebec, Canada, on January 25, 1925, after a very brief illness.

He was a son of Pascal Eusebe and Emilie (Lavoie) Dionne, and was born on July 11, 1845, at St. Denis, Kamouraska County, Quebec. His father was a farmer of limited means.

Prior to 1865 his education was gained only through irregular attendance at the parochial school of St. Denis, where his inborn interest in natural history early manifested itself. On January 19, 1865, he was hired as a

campus employee at Quebec Seminary, Quebec, at a salary of \$4.00 a month, plus room and board with the students. Later he obtained work in the library of Laval University, with which the Seminary was closely associated.

This employment gave him his opportunity, which he promptly grasped. Making the best use of the library and museum of the University, and of sympathetic professors and instructors, he devoted all available private time to study and collecting, until he became Curator of the Museum of Laval University and held the degree of Master of Arts.

On May 6, 1876, he married Marie Emilie Pelletier.

In 1882, when he was appointed Curator, the Museum of Laval University was small, and most of the specimens in it were neither named nor classified. Under his care order was soon established in the collection, which grew rapidly in size. A great many specimens were collected by Dionne himself, principally in the vicinity of Quebec and of his old home at St. Denis. Thousands of exchanges were made with institutions in all parts of the world.

In 1889 he collected at St. Denis specimens of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nelsoni subvirgatus*), thus extending greatly its known summer range, which was previously limited to the Maritime Provinces.

While most of Dionne's life was spent in his native Province of Quebec, he visited scientific institutions in Chicago and New York, as well as in Paris, France, and London, England.

He contributed to 'The Auk,' but his principal publications were the following works, all in the French language: '*Les Oiseaux du Canada*,' '*Catalogue annoté des Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec*,' '*Les Mammifères de la Province de Quebec*,' '*Les Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec*,' '*Les Araignées*.'

A few days before his death he completed sixty years in the service of Laval University and received the degree of Doctor of Science.

Dr. Dionne was a true scientist, full of zeal for the truths of nature, regardless of self or of prejudice. His entire life was most earnestly devoted to natural science, and the results of his labors form a worthy and outstanding monument to his memory. With all his passion for science, he was ever splendidly kindhearted and human, ready to give freely of his best to help the most learned savant or the veriest amateur, and long is the line of those who, like the writer, are deeply indebted to him.—H. F. L.

THE Boston Society of Natural History has received from the executors of the estate of Mr. Wm. Brewster, an amount approximating \$51,000. The income of this is to be used for "the purchase of birds and publication of papers relating to ornithology." The income should give the Society approximately \$3000 annually for the above purposes.

THE Forty-third stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, November 9 to 12, 1925. Monday November 9 will as usual be devoted to the meetings of the Council and the business meetings of the Members and Fellows, the public sessions for the presentation of papers following on the 10th, 11th, and 12th. Those who have not previously attended these meetings do not realize what they are missing and it is none too soon to make your plans so as to be able to make the trip and be free from business affairs on these dates. Details of the meeting will appear in a later issue of 'The Auk.'