

OBITUARIES

GURDON TRUMBULL was one of those elected to the class of Fellows in the earlier years of the American Ornithologists' Union, when custom permitted the election of candidates directly. This signal honor unquestionably was in recognition of the excellent qualities of his book on the 'Names and Portraits of Birds which interest Gunners.' The work was published in 1888 and on November 15 of that year at a Washington meeting, Trumbull was elected Fellow; he qualified as Life Fellow the following year.

The 'Names and Portraits' evidently made a most favorable impression. Elliott Coues, in one of his characteristic reviews (*Auk*, 5: 414-418, 1888), said: "The serious defects and very numerous faults of this treatise are those which we have not discovered and therefore decline to mention," and continuing more seriously he referred to it as "this remarkable work . . . this delightful accession to our shelves." The present writer has paid tribute to the book in three former publications on local names of birds (*Forest and Stream*, 77: 172, July 29, 1911; *Wilson Bull.*, 99: 74, 1917; *U. S. Dept. Agric.*, circ. 13, p. 3, 1923) and again would call attention to it as an example of the solid and enduring value of work sincerely conceived and painstakingly executed. Years of field investigation were part of Trumbull's preparation for this compilation and all possible accuracy was exercised in recording the results. It is a classic in its field.

Although an artist, Trumbull did not attempt to illustrate this work but obtained the services of Edwin Sheppard of Philadelphia. Sheppard was as talented a delineator of birds as the period offered and his pencil drawings on stipple board meticulously made for full-size reproduction are marvels of craftsmanship. Trumbull prepared notes for a second edition of the 'Names and Portraits' but they were never sent to press. His manuscript and the originals of the Sheppard illustrations, which had been equally divided between author and publishers, have been deposited, through the courtesy of his widow and of the firm of Harper and Brothers, in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress.

His other ornithological writings (see terminal bibliography) were few but of high quality. In the Woodcock papers, he described and illustrated the forceps-like action of the bill, recorded observations on feeding habits, particularly of a captive bird, and discussed the vocal or mechanical origin of the birds 'twitter.' The articles on scoters described the plumages and shapes of bill (illustrated) characteristic of the sexes and ages of four species of *Oidemia*.

Gurdon Trumbull came of a family that included many distinguished contributors to New England, and especially Connecticut, history and culture. Only those of his immediate family, however, will here be mentioned. His father whose name he bore lived from 1790 to 1875. He was originally of Norwich where he was a volunteer in the War of 1812-14. He moved to Stonington, made a fortune in whale and seal fisheries, and held various public offices, including membership in the State General Assembly. At Stonington he married Sarah A. Swan and they had ten children, of whom three died in infancy. Those longest surviving included J. Hammond Trumbull, eminent authority upon American Indian languages, State Librarian, and Assistant Secretary of State of Connecticut; the Reverend Henry Clay Trumbull, Chaplain of the 10th Connecticut Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War, missionary, writer, and editor of the 'Sunday School Times' in Philadelphia; Annie Trumbull, popular writer and noted entomologist, who married Edward Slosson of New York; and Gurdon Trumbull, Jr.

The last-named, subject of this sketch, was born in Stonington, Connecticut, May 5, 1841. All that is on record about his education pertains to art which he studied at Hartford, where he spent most of his life, and in New York. He tried his hand at landscapes, flowers, and fishes, and became "the finest fish-painter of America . . . [his pictures] although satisfying in composition and suggested action are microscopically perfect" (French, H. W., *Art and artists in Connecticut*, 1879, p. 150; this account includes a line portrait of Trumbull). His paintings of trout were mostly made at the cabin of his brother-in-law, Dr. William C. Prime, in the White Mountains. Some of his pictures were "chromoed" and widely distributed.

From the work on Connecticut artists, we learn further that "Mr. Trumbull's circumstances have been such that he has never been urged beyond the dictates of his fancy to follow a profession. . . . He is an excellent draughtsman, and has for some time occupied himself with pen-and-ink sketches, and the collection of pottery and porcelain" (*ibid.*, p. 152).

Along this line he illustrated his sister's book 'The China Hunter's Club' (New York, 1878), collected with much discrimination both in New England and abroad, and left a superb collection to the Morgan Memorial at Hartford. Some of his paintings also are at this institution.

Trumbull enlisted in the 25th regiment of Connecticut Volunteers September 21, 1862, was promoted to corporal and second lieutenant but was not mustered into actual service and resigned his commission on February 11, 1863. He married Annie F. Niles of Hartford, in 1895, but they had no children. She accompanied him during much of his field work on the 'Names and Portraits of Birds.'

He was always interested in hunting and fishing and travelled widely to enjoy these sports. Yet he wrote a good deal on humane subjects, became a director of the Connecticut Humane Society, and in later life was an almost fanatical antivivisectionist. He bequeathed his estate for the promotion of this cause. He was a member of the Twentieth Century Club and of the Congregational Church.

Gurdon Trumbull is spoken of by those who knew him as modest and unassuming, witty, and by one correspondent as "the most interesting talker I have ever met." It is said that Mark Twain often came to talk with Trumbull on the front porch where in fair weather he spent much time in his later years. He was never in robust health and for years toward the close of his life remained quietly at home. The ultimate cause of his death on December 28, 1903, was meningitis.

TRUMBULL'S ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

- 1888. Names and portraits of birds which interest gunners with descriptions in language understood of the people. viii + 221 pp., 61 figs., Harper and Brothers, New York.
- 1890. The American Woodcock. *Forest and Stream*, 35 (21): 412, 2 figs., December 11.
- 1891. The Woodcock's twitter. *Forest and Stream*, 35 (25): 491, January 8.
- 1892. Our scoters. *Auk*, 9 (2): 153-160, April.
- 1893. Our scoters. *Auk*, 10 (2): 165-176, pl. 5, April.

This biographical sketch has been prepared to fill a gap in the series of formal obituaries of Fellows of the American Ornithologists' Union. A brief notice of Trumbull's career was contributed to 'The Auk' for April 1904 (vol. 21, pp. 310-311) by John H. Sage who was to prepare the fuller account but failed to do so.—W. L. McATEE.

In the death of DR. ARTHUR CAMP STANLEY, on April 30, 1940, the Union lost an estimable Associate of fifteen years' standing, and America an eminent physician, and leader in the development of young men, gained through his untiring activities with the Boy Scout Organization. His services along this line, in teaching conservation of wildlife, of national resources, and the development of manhood to interested and developing minds, brought to him from the National Boy Scout Organization, its highest award, The Silver Beaver—for outstanding services to the boyhood of America.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 18, 1883, the son of Captain William Stillman Stanley and Louise Norton Camp Stanley. He studied at Yale, and graduated from the George Washington Medical School in 1906. Later he carried on further medical studies in Berlin and Austria. Early in his career, Doctor Stanley became a member of the Medical Corps of the United States Navy, but later resigned from this position to enter private practice in Washington, returning, however, to the Service during the World War with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

In 1912, Doctor Stanley married Alice Willard Boyd, daughter of the late Dr. John C. Boyd and Kate Willard Boyd. Throughout his professional career he specialized in gastro-intestinal diseases and arthritis, and was widely sought for treatment or consultation. He was a man of exceptionally fine qualities, covering the true essentials of a gentleman. His courtesy and kindness, his fine sense of honor and strict regard for his obligations, with full consideration for the rights and feelings of others, brought to him a host of admirers and friends. Due to his sympathetic and kindly nature, many patients were treated during serious illness, without remuneration. Among the throng that gathered at the funeral service, there doubtless were those who were paying their final and tearful homage to one who, during their darkest hours, brought them back to normal life.

Although an untrained ornithologist, as an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union he was interested in its activities, and when time would permit, was glad to steal a moment from active professional life, to visit the wilds where birds may be seen and their movements studied. As a sportsman he enjoyed watching and photographing game fully as well as taking it. He also was very much interested in the tagging of fish, to learn more of their growth and migration.

He was a member of the Cosmos Club, Army and Navy Club, Chevy Chase Club, Alfalfa Club, Sons of the American Revolution, Society of Colonial Wars, American Medical Association, George Washington Medical Society, District of Columbia Medical Society, and fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is survived by his widow, three sons, a daughter, two sisters and a brother. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.—A. K. FISHER.

RODMAN ARMITAGE NICHOLS, an Associate of the Union since 1919, died suddenly at Salem, Massachusetts, May 27, 1940. He was born March 12, 1884, and lived in Salem practically his entire life. Other than sporadic egg-collecting as a boy, he showed little interest in ornithology until about 1915. But the following year he was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Essex County Ornithological Club and for the succeeding fifteen years was active in that organization, served on the editorial board and contributed to its 'Bulletin' short articles of general or local interest.

He married Sophie Oliver Harris of Salem, March 27, 1910. She and their four children, Mrs. Ruth C. Dewing, Rodman A., Jr., Margaret M. and William O., survive him.—S. G. EMLIO.