

OBITUARIES

DR. CASEY ALBERT WOOD joined The American Ornithologists' Union in 1917, was elected to the class of Members in 1921, and so continued the remainder of his life. He died in La Jolla, California, January 26, 1942. Probably only prolonged periods of absence from this country prevented him from being made a Fellow as he was in every way qualified. Born of American parents in Wellington, Ontario (November 21, 1856), educated in Canada and Europe, and after his professional career in England and the United States, visiting and residing in any part of the world he chose, Dr. Wood was an international, rather than a national, figure.

His professional career in ophthalmology included service in New York, London, and Chicago. In the last city he also taught the subject successively at the Post-graduate Medical School, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois, where he was head, and later emeritus, professor. During the first world war he was in active service as a first lieutenant for a few months, then in turn was major in charge of examination of candidates for aviation and the signal corps at Chicago, in charge of the eye department at Camp Sherman, Ohio, and lieutenant-colonel on the staff of the surgeon general at Washington. After the war he was retired to the reserve with the rank of colonel. Dr. Wood was editor of the *Annals of Ophthalmology* (1894-1901), the *Ophthalmological Record* (1902-1908), and the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* (1908-1914); he was associated also with the editing of other magazines, and contributed to, and prepared as a whole, 'systems' and textbooks in this field.

In an ornithological direction, this phase of Dr. Wood's work culminated in 1917 in a treatise on 'The Fundus Oculi of Birds, especially as Viewed by the Ophthalmoscope; a Study in Comparative Anatomy and Physiology.' This was a folio, illustrated by 145 drawings in the text and 61 colored paintings reproduced as plates; "a most important monograph on the eyes of birds."

Most of the subsequent ornithological writings of Dr. Wood were by-products of his travels and hence relate chiefly to exotic birds. A complete list of them prepared by Margaret Hibbard, Librarian of the Wood Library, is included in the biography prepared by Colonel Edgar E. Hume in his recent welcome volume on 'Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps' (Johns Hopkins Press: 476-490, figs. 90-96, 1942—one a portrait, another a photograph of a sculptured head). Dr. Wood's travels were not haphazard sightseeing expeditions but well planned and industriously executed searches for specific facts or things—particularly the latter. Books and manuscripts, original paintings and drawings, as well as appropriate personalia were the objects of his quest. Going direct to the best sources, he was personally instrumental in building the excellent Blacker Library of Zoology, called after the friends (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roe Blacker) who helped furnish the funds, the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, named for his wife, and other libraries at McGill University. The memorialist is no judge of the collections in other fields, but he ventures to say that those in ornithology are unexcelled at any other single institution in North America.

Dr. Wood compiled and edited a monumental record of the results of his collecting in 'An introduction to the literature of Vertebrate Zoology' (Oxford University Press, xix + 643 pp., 1931); this is now incomplete as the libraries

involved have continued rapidly growing. Nineteen chapters preceding the actual catalogue of publications in this work evidence a comprehensive knowledge of the history and purport of zoological literature. Doctor Wood was exceptionally erudite and with him education never ceased—nor did production. With his last strength he made arrangements for the publication by the Hanford University Press of a reproduction and translation (in collaboration with his niece Marjorie Fyfe) of 'De Arte Venandi cum Avibus' by Emperor Frederick II of Hohenstauffen (1194–1250), together with various accessory chapters. This was largely the product of a final ten years of work, chiefly at Rome and in the Vatican Library. There he made this and other translations from mediaeval Latin, and others from Arabic. In earlier years he had published translations from German, French, Italian, and Spanish.

All in all, the subject of this sketch was probably the most broadly cultured and deeply learned of his generation in our Union. He was fond of poetry and in 1920 published in collaboration with Fielding H. Garrison 'A Physician's Anthology of English and American Poetry' (Oxford University Press). He could appreciate also the lighter side of life and wrote for, and supported, our well known informal organ—"The Auklet."

His niece writes of his last days, "It was amazing how, ill as he was, he still impressed people with the force of his personality. . . . I don't think he ever suffered, and all through his illness he showed no sign of distress. His sense of humor stayed with him until the last. . . . He gradually grew weaker and finally just went to sleep."

Accounts of Dr. Wood are in all of the leading biographical directories; the following memorials also may be cited: W. W. Francis, *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association*, 46: 296, March, 1942; and Burton Chance, *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, 25: 607, May, 1942.—W. L. McATEE.

ROBERT W. HEGNER (1880–1942).—On the eleventh day of March of this year, ornithologists lost one of their most distinguished colleagues. Robert W. Hegner, known and honored for his contributions to biology, zoology and ornithology, was born sixty-two years ago on February 15. His interest in the study of birds was evidenced early in his student days. At the turn of the century, lantern slides that he developed from his collection of unique bird photographs were paying his way through the University of Chicago. One of his original tricks was to photograph nests inside tree trunks by means of mirrors. A number of his early pictures were published in *Bird-Lore*, in other nature magazines, and in newspapers. His recent book, 'Parade of the Animal Kingdom,' contains many of these early photographs as well as some made in more recent years.

Dr. Hegner was an ardent egg collector as well. His entire collection, gathered mainly in the vicinity of his boyhood home of Decorah, Iowa, was given to the University of Michigan while he was a member of the faculty of that school. Dr. Hegner was an associate member of The American Ornithologists' Union from 1901 to 1904 and, though his teaching duties in other branches of zoology forced him to give up his active part in ornithology, he never lost interest in the field. Since 1918 Dr. Hegner had been associated with the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University and since 1922 had been professor of protozoology.

Along with his well known and widely used textbooks on college zoology and other academic subjects, Dr. Hegner is to be remembered for his contributions

to research on malaria and other parasites of birds. Much of our current knowledge of this field in North America was developed and published by Dr. Hegner and his students. Bird parasite problems, particularly malaria, continue to be studied by Dr. Hegner's students and it is their hope that their progress in the years to come will be worthy of the initial efforts of the teacher they so humbly revered. His published works and the profound effect of his inspired teaching upon his students will remain a lasting memorial.—CARLTON M. HERMAN.

PHILIP BERNARD PHILIPP, a Life Associate of The American Ornithologists' Union, died in New York City on July 11, 1941, at the age of 63. A graduate of Harvard University and of Columbia Law School, he was until a few years before his death a partner in the patent law firm founded by his father. Mr. Philipp made a lifelong hobby of collecting birds' eggs. He was, however, keenly interested in birds and bird photography as well as eggs and was always anxious not only to avoid the collecting of eggs of threatened species but to take active steps for their protection. He wrote a few of the educational bird pamphlets published by the National Audubon Society and for twenty years was president of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Philipp collected in many of the eastern states and also, over a period of years, at his camp in northern New Brunswick. At the latter locality he obtained much valuable information on the hitherto almost unknown nesting habits of such species as the Cape May Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo. This he published in several articles ("The Auk," 1916, 1917, 1919; "Canadian Field Naturalist," 1925) written in co-authorship with his field companion, Mr. B. S. Bowdish. The accurate and copious field notes which accompany his specimens are an additional source of valuable information to students of life history.

To supplement his own field work, Philipp, by purchase and exchange, built up his collection of North American eggs until it numbered almost 7000 sets and was one of the most complete in existence. In 1937 he presented his entire collection to the American Museum of Natural History together with the necessary means to permit not only his but the entire oölogical collection of the museum to be properly installed in the new quarters which became available at about that time. He was appointed a Research Associate at the museum and undertook his new activities with his characteristic keen enthusiasm. Unfortunately a serious decline in his health soon compelled him to give up all except occasional visits to the museum. His disappointment was lessened by his realization that his collection was now permanently available for educational and scientific projects.—DEAN C. AMADON.

PROFESSOR FRANK SMITH of the University of Illinois was an Associate of The American Ornithologists' Union from his election in 1909 until his death at St. Petersburg, Florida, February 3, 1942. Born at Winneconne, Wisconsin, February 18, 1857, he had attained a venerable age. He earned money to pay for higher education chiefly by teaching; graduated from Hillsdale College, Michigan, in 1885; later worked in marine biological laboratories at Annisquam, Massachusetts, and Newport, Rhode Island; and did graduate work at Harvard University, where he received the A.M. degree in 1893. In 1892 he taught biology in Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and in 1893 went to the University of Illinois as instructor in zoology. He rose steadily through the faculty grades becoming Professor in 1913. He was also Curator of the University Museum of Natural

History, 1900–1917. The honorary degree of D.Sc. was given him in 1923 by Hillsdale College, and in 1926 he retired from the University of Illinois as Professor Emeritus. In the rather long period of retirement (16 years) vouchsafed him, he lived chiefly at Hillsdale, Michigan, in summer and at St. Petersburg, Florida, in winter.

With a mathematical bent at first, his life-work was in zoology. While diverse, it was sufficiently concentrated upon the earthworms and their allies that he may be fairly said to have created the classification of these animals for North America. He also published on the earthworms of other lands and was a leading authority on fresh-water sponges. His printed contributions to ornithology (13 in number) relate principally to migration. He endeavored to stimulate and guide migration study in Illinois and to summarize the results.

This interest continued after his retirement when he carried on bird study at both his Michigan and Florida homes. He was a faithful attendant of the meetings of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society and of the Florida West Coast Bird Club. Those who have commented on Professor Smith's personality have emphasized his sincerity and thoroughness, modesty and helpfulness. 'Who's Who in America,' and 'American Men of Science' may be consulted for biographical details and 'Science' 95: 398–400, April 17, 1942) for a memorial by Paul S. Welch. For facts about Professor Smith, the present writer is indebted to Dr. Welch and also to William G. Fargo, Alice S. Johnson, H. R. Mills, Daisie M. Morrison, Francis M. Weston, and Harley J. Van Cleave.—W. L. McATEE.

NOTES AND NEWS

'The Auk' takes great pleasure in announcing a generous gift from Life Associate, Edward A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana, who has made a liberal pledge of \$150.00 quarterly for a period of five years to aid in the publication of this journal. Needless to say, this gracious and unexpected gift furnishes a most welcome addition to our publication fund where it is badly needed. The membership of The American Ornithologists' Union in general and the Treasurer and Editor in particular have reason to be very grateful to Mr. McIlhenny who has shown himself a true friend of the Society with which he has been associated for nearly fifty years.