Secretary of State invited my opinion as to the propriety and feasibility of the United States taking part in this work through the Smithsonian Institution, and requested an estimate of the probable expense attendant thereto. To this I replied that I fully concurred in the view of the delegates as to the great importance of a successful execution of the conclusions of the conference and as to the propriety of this government taking its share of the proposed work by providing for the cataloguing of the scientific publications of the United States. This opinion is strengthened by the fact that the recommendations made are due to results emanating from an international conference, at which the United States was officially represented. and by the further considerations that the benefits to be derived from this undertaking are not only great and far-reaching for the scientific progress of America, but also of universal value, and that all the great and many of the smaller nations will take part in the work. I recognized also the propriety of the suggestion that the government should employ the Smithsonian Institution as an agent in this matter, particularly since the Institution first suggested this subject in 1855, and since it has been from its earliest organization interested in scientific bibliography.

I was, however, reluctant to commit the Institution to the appearance of soliciting Congress in this matter in any case, or to the undertaking of the enterprise, however worthy, unless provision could be made for the necessary expenses of the work. After considering the subject, it seemed to me that the work, if assigned to the Smithsonian Institution, would require a person of special qualifications to immediately assist the Secretary, together with a number of trained clerical assistants, and that the salaries for these persons and the expenses incident to the work would require an appropriation of not less than $10,000 per annum.

In accordance with this recommendation, Secretary Olney transmitted this correspondence to Congress. Although the Catalogue will not begin until 1900, much preliminary work will be necessary. I have accordingly brought the matter to the attention of Secretary Sherman, and the Department of State has agreed to submit an item for this purpose in its regular estimates for the year 1898–99.

Although the new building for the Library of Congress was completed in February, 1897, its occupancy had not begun at the close of the fiscal year. The east stack was provisionally assigned for the Smithsonian collection of transactions. In the past only this portion of the Smithsonian Library has been kept together, the remainder of the collection being distributed throughout the Library of Congress. I trust that in the new building, with its ample space and largely increased force, it will be found possible, in accordance with the resolution of the Regents in 1889, to assemble the entire collection in one place.

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*HARRISON ALLEN.**

In Harrison Allen this Association has lost one of its founders and most active members and its second president; science has lost a devotee; medicine has lost a specialist of high rank; the community has lost a man of lofty character and broad culture; there are doubtless others beside myself upon whom the announcement of his death on the 14th of November fell with the shock of personal bereavement, great and irreparable. During the present week Dr. Allen and his family were to have been my guests. What contrast could be greater than between the joys anticipated and the sad reality of the tribute which, at the re-

* Read before the Association of American Anatomists at its Tenth Meeting, December 28, 1897.

Harrison Allen

quest of our president, is now offered to the memory of our collaborator and friend?

Harrison Allen was born in Philadelphia April 17, 1841. His parents were Samuel Allen and Elizabeth Justice Thomas. His ancestors accompanied William Penn, and on his father's side he was descended from Nicholas Waln, distinguished in the early history of Philadelphia. As a boy Harrison was interested in Natural History, and at or before sixteen he went on an extended walking and camping trip in western Pennsylvania with associates of like tastes, amongst whom was George Horn, also lately deceased. Although he would have preferred pure science, financial considerations led him to study medicine, including dentistry.

After gaining his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, he was on duty for a time at the Blockley Hospital in his native city. On the 31st of January, 1862, he was appointed Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., and Assistant Surgeon, July 30, 1862, serving in hospitals and in the defences of Washington until the acceptance of his resignation, December 8, 1865. He then ranked as Brevet Major. It was during the winter of 1862–63 that I first made his acquaintance at a meeting of the Potomac Side Naturalists' Club, attended also by Elliott Coues, Theodore Gill and others. Our army service did not throw us together, and I little thought then how dear Dr. Allen was to become to me in later years; for ten summers, indeed, we have been near neighbors at Nantucket, and I have been looking forward to the time when less pressure of work would permit me to enjoy his society more fully.

Dr. Allen now practised his profession with diligence and success. His dental education facilitated specialization in respect to the air passages, and in 1880 he was President of the American Laryngological Association. Of his strictly medical and surgical publications (numbering about fifty) nearly all relate more or less directly to his specialty.

But while he earned his living by medicine, it was in science that he lived, and it is this side of his career that interests us more as members of this Association. The subject of his thesis at graduation was 'Entozoa Hominis,' probably suggested by his beloved teacher, Joseph Leidy. His first scientific paper appeared in July, 1861, in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and treated of certain bats brought from Africa by the explorer Du Chaillu; besides the two editions of his monograph of the bats of North America, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1864 and 1893, respectively; to the same highly specialized mammals were devoted thirty of his scientific papers; just before his death he completed articles on the Glossophaginæ and on the genus *Ectophylla*. Yet, while remaining throughout life true to his first scientific love, Dr. Allen published valuable notes or memoirs upon many other subjects, notably the joints, the muscles, locomotion and crania; only a week before he died he handed over to the Wagner Institute of Science a study of the skulls from the Hawaiian Islands, much more elaborate than the previous one of the Florida crania. To him also was appropriately conceded the privilege of dissecting and describing the remarkable Siamese Twins.

Dr. Allen was emphatically, and in a double sense, a *fine* anatomist. So far as I know he seldom used the compound microscope, and availed himself little of the multifarious devices, chemical and mechanical, of modern histology. But his dissections of delicate organs were simply exquisite, demanding the most perfect training of hand and eye. Yet his habitual devotion to creatures of minor size did not deter him, during the past summer, from offering to

superintend, in behalf of the United States National Museum, the preparation of the skeleton of a sperm whale that came ashore near his seaside home.

Besides the papers and volumes already mentioned, Dr. Allen published, in 1877, 'Outlines of Comparative Anatomy and Medical Zoölogy,' and in 1881 completed an elaborate treatise on Human Anatomy, wherein stress is laid upon the medical and surgical bearing of the facts of human structure. Finally, and rightly to be mentioned in exemplification of his broad culture and sympathies, here is a discussion of 'The Life Form in Art,' and here an address on 'Poetry and Science,' delivered before a Browning Society. Nor must it be forgotten that music had always charms for our friend, and that he was an admirable player upon the flute.

But Dr. Allen was not merely a successful practitioner and an eminent investigator; he was also a teacher. In the University of Pennsylvania he was professor of zoology and comparative anatomy from 1865 to 1876, professor of physiology from 1878 to 1885; emeritus professor of physiology to 1891; professor of comparative anatomy and zoology, 1891–1896. He had been connected with his *alma mater* for more than thirty years, a period exceeded only in the case of five other professors. Dr. Allen was an active or corresponding member of numerous scientific societies in this and other countries, and was President of the American Society of Naturalists in 1887 and in 1888. A large part of his work was done at the Academy of Natural Sciences and published in its *Proceedings*.

The climax of Dr. Allen's useful and honorable career was reached in 1891. He was then fifty years of age, and for half that time had been connected with the University. In 1891 he became professor of comparative anatomy and zoology; President of the Contemporary Club of Philadelphia; Curator of the newly established Wistar Institute of Anatomy; President of the Anthropometric Society; then, too, he succeeded Professor Leidy in the presidency of this Association, holding office for two terms, or four years. No such combination of honors and responsibilities within a single year is known to me. During 1891 he published a dozen separate papers or addresses.

On the 29th of December, 1869, Dr. Allen married Miss Julia A. Colton; she survives him, together with a daughter, Dorothea W., and a son who bears his father's name, and who has already begun the study of the profession in which his father attained such eminence. Dr. Allen's private collections of bats and other specimens were bequeathed to the Academy of Natural Sciences. As a member of the American Anthropometric Society he directed that his brain should be entrusted to that organization. His body was cremated. The autopsy revealed the cause of his death as heart-failure, due to fatty degeneration; he had of late years also been subject to rheumatism.

It is idle to speculate as to what Dr. Allen might have achieved in pure science had his health been more robust, his nature more aggressive, and his time more nearly at his own disposal. For in considering the extent and value of his publications we must take into account two potent factors in his life: first, he was in active practice; secondly, he was eminently conscientious and recognized to the full that his patients were entitled to the best that he could do. Gratuitous attendance upon those unable to pay is so general in the medical profession that it would be invidious in me to more than record my personal knowledge of cases in which Dr. Allen's skill was exercised at his serious personal inconvenience and when in need of rest.

Whether due to his Quaker ancestry or

to principle, Dr. Allen was non-combative, and sometimes suffered injustice rather than engage in controversy. But in the advocacy of a principle he could be tenacious and even aggressive. Twenty-one years ago, during Huxley's visit to this country, an address on Medical Education was interpreted by Dr. Allen as controverting his doctrine as to the inclusion of Comparative Anatomy in a medical course. He promptly protested in a daily journal and discussed the subject with marked emphasis in a paper before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1880. In view of the enormous prestige of Huxley's utterances upon any subject at that period, opposition to him demanded no little courage.

Preëminent among Dr. Allen's many admirable traits was his readiness to recognize the good qualities of others. Even respecting bores or those who wronged him I do not recall an unkind remark. So decided, indeed, was his predisposition to find some extenuating quality in even the most flagitious transgressor that had the devil been objurgated in his presence we may imagine him to add: "His satanic majesty has doubtless many sins to answer for, but let us not forget his extraordinary ability, activity, and enterprise."

In this package are all my letters from Dr. Allen, nearly forty in number. The first is dated December 2, 1867. As may be imagined, many of the more recent discuss the formation, progress and prospects of this Association. The second letter so clearly exhibits his modesty, his unselfishness, and his loyalty to his friends, that I quote from it.*

I could occupy much time with details of my dear friend's life and nature, but content myself with enumerating what seem to me rare combinations of characteristics. An ardent naturalist, and daily handling specimens variously preserved, he was fastidiously neat in person and apparel. He was simple in his tastes, yet conformed to the customs of the most conventional of cities. Rigid in the performance of duty, yet considerate of the shortcomings of others. Dignified, but not haughty. Affable, yet insisting upon the respect due to scholarship and culture. A delightful conversationalist, yet an equally accomplished listener. Mirthful, yet never condescending to buffoonery. Sociable in the company of men, yet neither uttering nor tolerating what might not be said before the other sex. Emulous of all excellence, yet never envious of those who surpassed him in special directions. "Let us cherish his memory and profit by his example." Nay, perhaps, take warning therefrom. For, humanly speaking, had he worked less incessantly, and especially less far into the night, he might be with us to-day.

Intimate as we were, and freely as we conversed upon matters involving the duties of human beings toward one another, no theologic point was ever mentioned between us, and I am absolutely ignorant of the nature of his religious convictions. But whatever may have been his belief, and whatever may be our own, I feel that no violence is done by the repetition of three verses of the twenty-fourth Psalm that have arisen in my memory repeatedly during the past six weeks while reflecting upon Harrison Allen:

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

BURT G. WILDER.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

*There was then vacant a high position for which he had been strongly recommended by one who had declined it. He asked if I were a candidate, implying that if so he would withdraw. Under date of December 16, 1896, he wrote: "I shall gladly be your disciple in all matters of nomenclature."