

for science, and soon became recognized as a safe scientific thinker and investigator. He was one who never rushed to conclusions however enticing the facts discovered appeared, but took time to look into every possible avenue of approach to the subject, being satisfied only when his conclusions rested upon a foundation that could not be shaken. Consequently he was not a prolific writer. Indeed, he gave himself so unreservedly to his teaching and his students that research work was possible only during his brief vacations and at odd hours.

Professor Wright was a modest, retiring man, always shrinking from publicity, yet his service to the community and the state becomes conspicuous in his absence. Oberlin's unrivaled water and sewer systems are largely due to his hard study and keen insight. To him is almost wholly due the inception of the topographical survey of Ohio. In this he was at first defeated, but by untiring efforts and dogged determination saw the issue to a successful finish. He was also among the charter members of the Ohio State Academy of Science, which he served as president.

Probably among his most conspicuous contributions to science was his correction of Dr. Newberry's error in the true arrangement of the ventral armor of *Dinichthys*. While the publications over his own name were relatively few, his inspiration to others and his constant interest and unflinching kindness in spending himself for others who worked under him will continue long to be a potent factor in the advancement of science.

Professor Wright was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the Geological Society of America, and member of the Ohio State Academy of Science.

HERBERT OSBORN, *President*,
L. B. WALTON, *Secretary*.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND WHALE FISHERIES.

THE returns of the Newfoundland Whale Fisheries for 1904 show that the eleven steamers employed took 1,270 whales, or an average of 116 each. In 1903 four steamers took 859 whales, or an average of 215 each. The Fisheries' 'Gazette' says that these returns make a very unfavorable showing and that comparison with those for 1903 is most depressing. That it is so is only what might have been expected. One can take out of a bucket only as much water as there is in it, and with the present rate at which whales are being killed, there is no reason to expect that the supply can at all keep up with the demand. Of

course local causes may have been responsible for a part of the decrease, but this remains to be seen, and certainly a catch of 1,200 whales in the limited area around Newfoundland must be looked upon as enormous.

Those familiar with the history of fishing industries are quite aware that the fishermen never admit that their catch has any influence whatever upon the diminution in numbers of animal life; whales, seals and fishes are never exterminated, simply gone elsewhere, although that elsewhere is invariably where the wicked men cease from troubling and the weary animals are at rest.

The question is now being agitated as to what effect the diminution of whales will have upon other fisheries and in Norway the agitation carried on by the fishermen has progressed to such an extent that, right or wrong, the whale fishery in certain districts has been prohibited. That the diminution of whales may have an effect on fisheries is very probable, though it is extremely doubtful if the reasons assigned by the fishermen are the correct ones.

On the Newfoundland coast the whales feed entirely upon small isopods and it may be that the diminution in whales allows a wonderful increase of the *Euphausia*, who in turn feed upon the minute life on which the caplin and herrings are accustomed to feed. That the whales directly affect either herring or caplin or squid is more than doubtful, since none of these animals form any portion of the food of whales on the Newfoundland coast. Of the hundreds of whales examined none have contained anything save *Euphausia*. The smaller finback whales, such as *Batænoptera acutorostrata*, feed actively upon the schools of caplin, but this species is not common about the Newfoundland coast and certainly has no appreciable effect upon the fishes.

F. A. L.

BROOKLYN INSTITUTE MUSEUM.

CONFERENCE OF ANATOMISTS AT THE WISTAR INSTITUTE.

TEN of the leading American anatomists were invited by the Wistar Institute of Anatomy of Philadelphia to take part in a con-

ference held at this institute on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12, to consider with the management of the Wistar Institute the question of increasing the usefulness of the Wistar Institute to American anatomists by establishing relationship with the individual anatomists of the country, with the Association of American Anatomists, with the *American Journal of Anatomy* and with similar institutes abroad; and also by establishing an Advisory Board of Anatomists of the Wistar Institute, with ten or more members, selected from the leading anatomists of the country.

The following anatomists were present at the conference:

Dr. Lewellys F. Barker, professor of anatomy, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ills.

Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, professor of zoology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. Henry H. Donaldson, professor of neurology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ills.

Mr. Simon H. Gage, professor of embryology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Dr. G. Carl Huber, professor of embryology and histology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dr. George S. Huntington, professor of anatomy, Columbia University, New York City.

Dr. Franklin P. Mall, professor of anatomy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. J. Playfair McMurrich, professor of anatomy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dr. Charles S. Minot, professor of embryology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Dr. George S. Piersol, professor of anatomy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

The first formal meeting was opened in the library of the Wistar Institute at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. General Wistar, the donor of the institute, representing the board of managers, addressed the meeting and expressed his pleasure at having such a distinguished body of scientists present. He then spoke of the organization of the institute, its objects, its resources and its probable future.

Dr. M. J. Greenman, director of the institute, followed with a short address outlining the work which he thought might be accomplished by the conference. The objects and possibilities of the institute were stated. Ref-

erence was made to its independent organization, on account of which it is in a position to accomplish certain lines of work which could not be undertaken by other institutions.

The anatomists were called upon to consider what special lines of work the institute might undertake, to be of greatest service to American anatomy, to consider the relations of the institute to the American Association of Anatomists, to the American anatomists as individuals and to the *American Journal of Anatomy*. They were also requested to consider the possibility and advisability of establishing a central institute of neurology, utilizing the Wistar Institute as its working base, and acquiring relations with the committee appointed by the International Association of Academies for Brain Investigation.

Attention was called to the achievements possible by cooperation of individuals and other forces with an institution organized and endowed for research anatomy.

The organization of an advisory board of anatomists of the Wistar Institute was suggested as a possible means of accomplishing the most work for the greatest number.

The conference then organized and elected Dr. Charles S. Minot chairman and Dr. M. J. Greenman secretary.

The discussion which followed resulted in a unanimous opinion that the Wistar Institute of Anatomy offered most unique facilities for defining American anatomy, facilities which would be of advantage to all investigators in this branch of science. It was thought that research material might be collected and prepared there, especially neurological and embryological materials, thus saving much time to the interpreter; that original preparations which had been studied and therefore, of much greater value, should be deposited in the Wistar museum for future use of students who wished to review the work. The reproduction of models was suggested.

The importance of organized effort to collect and properly prepare the vast amount of anatomical material which usually goes to waste and the importance of its immediate use while fresh were emphasized. The establishment of agencies in various localities with skilled

preparators in charge for the collection of material was suggested. It was developed in the course of the discussion that the advanced grade of museum work which the institute strives to do and investigation are inseparable. It was considered that the pursuit of a well defined line of researches was necessary for the proper collection and preparation of materials. Neurology, embryology and comparative anatomy were discussed as the broad lines of work to be developed and it was thought that neurological researches should be the first to receive attention.

The first session was closed after having appointed a committee of three with instructions to formulate a series of propositions to be discussed at the morning meeting on April 12. The committee consisted of Chairman Minot, Dr. Donaldson and Dr. Mall.

The second session of the conference was called on Wednesday, April 12, at twelve o'clock; Chairman Minot presided. The committee presented its report, which is as follows:

"Notes taken at the meeting of the committee yesterday are presented in the following order: (1) The principal object of the institute to be research and under these headings: (a) a chief of investigation, (b) research assistants or assistantships and men who shall divide their services between the museum proper and research, (c) technical assistants. (2) Research and materials: (a) research shall be in the field of neurology, (b) comparative anatomy and embryology. (3) Relations: (a) committee recommends that the subvention to the *Journal of Anatomy* be granted, (b) committee be appointed to consider relations of the Wistar Institute to American anatomists, (c) the Wistar Institute to apply to the Association of American Anatomists for cooperation. (4) That an advisory board of ten be appointed for general purposes: (a) to form a subcommittee on neurology as well as other sub-committees that may be needed, (b) to establish relations with the committee of the International Association of Academies for Brain Investigation and with other committees for collective investigation, (c) the committee recommends

that the board bear in mind that while the general trend of work above outlined is recommended there is no intention to advise limitation of the functions of the institute to it exclusively.

A brief discussion followed and the recommendations of the committee were unanimously adopted by the conference. Chairman Minot then presented these recommendations to the Wistar Institute as the finished work of the conference.

General Wistar thereupon expressed the approval of the Wistar Institute in every detail of the recommendations and asked the ten anatomists present if they would become members of a permanent advisory board of anatomists of the Wistar Institute and proceed to organize and appoint such committees as were recommended. General Wistar explained that he voiced the sentiment of the members of the board of managers present and he would assume authority for the creation of such a board and the appointment of its members and he had no doubt that the creation of the advisory board of anatomists and the personnel of its membership would be officially confirmed by the board of managers at its next meeting. The members of the conference consented and the advisory board was organized by electing Dr. Charles S. Minot as chairman and Dr. M. J. Greenman as permanent secretary.

The advisory board proceeded to appoint the following committees: on neurology and the establishment of relations with the International Association of Academies, Dr. L. F. Barker, Dr. H. H. Donaldson, Dr. F. P. Mall, Dr. J. P. McMurrich, Dr. C. S. Minot (this committee to elect its own chairman); on relations of the Wistar Institute to American Anatomists, Professor S. H. Gage, chairman, Dr. Geo. A. Piersol, Dr. G. Carl Huber; on comparative anatomy and embryology, Dr. Geo. S. Huntington, chairman, Dr. E. G. Conklin, Dr. F. P. Mall.

At the close of the meeting Dr. L. F. Barker was called upon by the conference to express its thanks to the Wistar Institute for the reception which was tendered the members of the conference and for the opportunity which

they had had of taking so active a part in a plan of such broad and liberal scope. Dr. Barker called attention to the unusual procedure of an endowed institution extending its facilities in such a liberal manner to the workers in the science and calling upon them to advise methods of development which would be mutually advantageous to both the institute and researcher.

The meeting of the advisory board then adjourned subject to the call of the officers of the meeting.

A meeting of the board of managers of the Wistar Institute was called on April 18 and the action of its representatives at the conference was officially confirmed.

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION.

THE announcement was made on April 27 that Mr. Andrew Carnegie had created a trust fund, to be known as 'The Carnegie Foundation,' to provide annuities for college professors in the United States, Canada and Newfoundland, who from old age or other physical disability are no longer in a position to render efficient service. The fund is vested in a board of trustees consisting in the main of presidents of institutions for higher education. It consists of \$10,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. Steel Corporation bonds, the market value of which at present is \$11,500,000, and will produce an income of \$500,000 a year.

Mr. Carnegie's letter to the trustees is as follows:

NEW YORK, April 18, 1905.

Gentlemen: I have reached the conclusion that the least rewarded of all the professions is that of the teacher in our higher educational institutions. New York city, generously, and very wisely, provides retiring pensions for teachers in her public schools and also for her policemen. Very few indeed of our colleges are able to do so. The consequences are grievous. Able men hesitate to adopt teaching as a career, and many old professors whose places should be occupied by younger men can not be retired.

I have, therefore, transferred to you and your successors as trustees, \$10,000,000 five per cent. first mortgage bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, the revenue from which is to provide retiring pensions for the teachers of universities,

colleges and technical schools in our country, Canada and Newfoundland, under such conditions as you may adopt from time to time. Expert calculation shows that the revenue will be ample for the purpose.

The fund applies to the three classes of institutions named, without regard to race, sex, creed or color. We have, however, to recognize that state and colonial governments which have established, or mainly support, universities, colleges or schools, may prefer that their relations shall remain exclusively with the state. I can not, therefore, presume to include them.

There is another class which states do not aid, their constitutions in some cases even forbidding it, viz., sectarian institutions. Many of these, established long ago, were truly sectarian, but today are free to all men of all creeds or of none—such are not to be considered sectarian now. Only such as are under control of a sect or require trustees (or a majority thereof), officers, faculty or students to belong to any specified sect, or which impose any theological test, are to be excluded.

Trustees shall hold office for five years and be eligible for reelection. The first trustees shall draw lots for one, two, three, four or five-year terms, so that one fifth shall retire each year. Each institution participating in the fund shall cast one vote for trustees.

The trustees are hereby given full powers to manage the trust in every respect; to fill vacancies of non ex-officio members; appoint executive committees; employ agents; change securities and, generally speaking, to do all things necessary in their judgment to insure the most beneficial administration of the funds.

By a two thirds vote they may from time to time apply the revenues in a different manner and for a different though similar purpose to that specified, should coming days bring such changes as render this necessary in their judgment to produce the best results possible for the teachers and for education.

No trustee shall incur any legal liability flowing from his trusteeship. All traveling and hotel expenses incurred by trustees in the performance of their duties shall be paid from the fund, the expenses of wife or daughter accompanying the trustees to the annual meeting included.

I hope this fund may do much for the cause of higher education and to remove a source of deep and constant anxiety to the poorest paid and yet one of the highest of all professions. Gratefully yours,

ANDREW CARNEGIE.