

his remarkable work in the production of ciliated cysts, and other abnormal growths due to artificial stimulation in *Pecten* and other marine invertebrates led to his being appointed to the Beit fellowship for the study of cancer.

He was, however, far more than a young man whose ability, training and energy inspired confidence respecting his ultimate high position in attainment, for he was an English gentleman, simple in manner, generous in spirit; a charming, brilliant companion, a warm-hearted friend, and above all one whose aim it was to give to the world all that lay within his power to bestow as a servant of the high ideals of civilization.

ALFRED G. MAYER

FUR SEAL LEGISLATION

THE following letter has been addressed to members of congress under date of March 31, 1913:

The fur seal legislation of the 62d Congress has been left in very unsatisfactory shape. A treaty was entered into on July 7, 1911, by the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Russia, for the suspension of pelagic sealing for fifteen years. This treaty provides protection for the mother seal on her migration and feeding journeys and guarantees the future prosperity of the herd. The treaty was promptly ratified by the Senate, but in the act of August 24, 1912, designed to give effect to this treaty, was included an amendment suspending land sealing—the killing of the superfluous males—for five years. The significant relation of this amendment to the treaty is that the United States agreed to share its land catch with Great Britain and Japan in return for the abandonment by their citizens of the pelagic industry. We are as firmly bound to continue land sealing and share its product as are Great Britain and Japan to prohibit pelagic sealing. Dissatisfaction naturally results from our action. Abrogation of the treaty would be followed by resumption of pelagic sealing, with ultimate destruction of the herd. Even if the treaty be not openly broken, our indifference to our obligations warrants like indifference on the part of our neighbors in enforcing prohibition, leading to illicit open sea sealing.

The final act of the 62d Congress is not less inimical to the welfare of the herd. This was to cut from the Sundry Civil Bill the appropriation for the maintenance of the government force of agents on the fur seal islands, reducing this force to a single care-taker for each island. This is in effect a notice that we have weakened the land defenses of the herd. It is an invitation to the lawless element, largely present among the pelagic sealers, to raid the islands and attack the herd upon its breeding haunts. The natives on the islands are effective defenders only under intelligent and courageous direction. One man can not guard twenty-five miles of shore, for the most part difficult of access through absence of roads and means of transportation. It will not be forgotten that in 1906 Japanese sealers landed upon the rookeries in spite of the active revenue patrol, and were only prevented from inflicting heavy damage upon the herd by the prompt and courageous defense of the resident agents and the natives, a dozen or more of the raiders being killed before the attacks were finally warded off. Reduced to a single care-taker on each island—they are forty miles apart—the island force can make no adequate defense.

The property interests thus being trifled with are of great value, capable of yielding a land catch in 1913 worth not less than \$400,000, and this income will grow steadily. To maintain the herd requires protection for its breeding stock on the high seas and upon the breeding grounds. The treaty of July 7, 1911, guarantees the first, the island guards, the second. It is the duty of the 63d Congress to repeal the provision of the law of August 24, 1912, suspending land sealing, and to restore to the appropriation bills the sum necessary to maintain intact the force for island defense.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID STARR JORDAN, *Commissioner
in Charge of Investigations, 1896-7.*

GEORGE ARCHIBALD CLARK, *Secretary
of Commission, 1896-7,
Special Investigator 1909 and 1912.*

THE EUGENICS RECORD OFFICE

THE Eugenics Record Office, which was established at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, in October, 1910, by Mrs. E. H. Harriman and which has ever since been active in this field, with the additional assistance of Mr.

John D. Rockefeller and others, has recently entered upon a new stage of its development. A board of scientific directors has been organized, comprising Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, chairman; Dr. William H. Welch, professor of pathology, Johns Hopkins University, vice-chairman; Professor Irving Fisher, Yale University; Professor Lewellys F. Barker, of the Johns Hopkins University; Professor E. E. Southard, of Harvard University and director of the Psychopathic Hospital, Boston, and Dr. C. B. Davenport, secretary of the board and resident director. The board met at Cold Spring Harbor on March 21, and organized its work. The aim of the Eugenics Record Office was defined to be as follows. First, to promote researches in eugenics that shall be of utility to the human race. This part of the program includes: the study of America's most effective blood lines; and the methods of securing the preponderance and relative increase of the best strains; the study of the origin of and the best methods of restricting the strains that produce the defective and delinquent classes of the community; the study of the method of inheritance of particular traits; the study of the consequences of the marriages of close kin; the study of miscegenation in the United States; the study, both in this country and abroad, of the family histories of permanent immigrants. Second, to publish the results of these researches. Third, to provide a fireproof building for the preservation of eugenical records, including genealogical works and town-histories. Fourth, to provide an administrative office and staff to carry out the work. The fireproof building that is to form the new home of the office is being rapidly pushed to completion.

The board of scientific directors of the Eugenics Record Office will meet each spring at Cold Spring Harbor to consider the projects most worthy of support during the ensuing year, which begins October first, and it will meet again in November to receive a report of the work of the office in the preceding fiscal year. The resident director has general charge of the plant and its operations and is authorized to ask for and receive, in the name

of the board, funds to carry on the work of the office. The board voted in favor of the organization of a Eugenics Research Association, of which a meeting will be called early in June.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE National Academy of Sciences will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington April 22-24 inclusive. Following is the preliminary program:

Tuesday, April 22

- 9:30 A.M. Business meeting of the Academy in National Museum.
 11:00 A.M. Opening Session, National Museum.
 Welcome by the President of the Academy.
 Addresses:
 "The Relation of Science to Higher Education in America," President Arthur T. Hadley of Yale.
 "International Cooperation in Research," Dr. Arthur Schuster, Secretary of the Royal Society of London.
 3:00 P.M. Address:
 "The Earth and Sun as Magnets," Dr. George E. Hale, Director of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory.
 9:00 P.M. Reception by the Secretary and Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to the Members of the Academy and their Guests at the National Museum.

Wednesday, April 23

- 10:30 A.M. Morning Session.
 Addresses:
 "On the Material Basis of Heredity," Dr. Theodor Boveri, University of Würzburg.
 "The Structure of the Universe," Dr. J. C. Kapteyn, Director of the Astronomical Laboratory, University of Groningen.
 3:30 P.M. Reception at the White House and Presentation of Medals by the President of the United States.
 9:00 P.M. Reception by the Trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington to the Members of the Academy and Guests.

Thursday, April 24

- 9:00 A.M. Meeting of the Council at the National Museum.