

SCIENCE

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THE VALUE AND SERVICE OF ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCE¹

VALUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL

THE science of zoology is a body of organized knowledge, huge, impersonal, influential. Touching human concerns on many sides, it has been variously regarded: now as a pillar of philosophy, now as a handmaiden of esthetic, or again as a necessity alike to spiritual progress and to various indispensable achievements in the practical world. Powerful in itself, to other disciplines its contributions of hard fact and substantial theory have been many and in the aggregate profoundly significant.

Philosophies, however, are the creations of philosophers. The laws that we apply to diverse aspects of beauty we have framed ourselves. Eugenics and medicine, agricultural practise and the dogmas of religion—all are the works of the human imagination. As attention shifts thus from the product to the producer, an aspect of zoology is revealed that makes at once a more intimately personal appeal.

It is on this aspect that I would now focus your attention. Its appeal is to the individual human being apart from his professional, his vocational existence: to the plain person, pricked by a thousand impulses that must be encouraged and controlled; attended by obligations that must be measured and met; with opportunities for pleasure that he would do ill to lose; with opportunities for service that may carry him unfaltering to the cannon's mouth; ready to see in commonplaces the

¹ Symposium before the Zoological Society of America, Minneapolis, December 29, 1917.