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THE VALUE AND SERVICE OF ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCE¹

ESTHETICAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES

WE are met together in a world convulsed by strife, resounding with the measured tramp of armies, with the clash of arms, and into the vortex of this world-wide conflict our own nation has been drawn. Back of the rising smoke of battle towers the gaunt figure of materialism. It is greed of material gain, it is lust of dominion, where-with to reap this gain, that has precipitated this mighty struggle.

All nations have allowed themselves to fall in more or less degree under the sway of this materialism, and we ourselves are not without guilt in this respect, though not so guilty as our critics would fain have us believe. It was not to be wondered at that under these conditions many at first saw in this war only the rivalry of sordid interests, that they hesitated to take sides in a struggle in which they conceived the end not as the triumph of noble principles but as the supremacy of commercial advantage, that our critics charged us with seeking to serve only our own selfish interests and taxed us with hypocrisy when on entering the conflict we renounced material gain and raised the banner of truth and justice.

But exposed to the heat of this conflagration and in the crucible of suffering men's ambitions have been refined, the metal has been freed from the dross. As the struggle has progressed, another figure—the figure of idealism—has become defined, ris-

¹ Symposium before the American Society of Zoologists, Minneapolis, December 29, 1917.