

come into action when medicine still feels the impulse of these strenuous years.

The laboratory and the clinic have collaborated as never before and the future is full of promise.

Under these conditions it has been my privilege to give you encouragement and a bit of counsel, and I feel indebted for the opportunity.

HENRY H. DONALDSON

WILLIAM ERSKINE KELLICOTT

A CONSTANTLY lengthening list of scientific men who have surrendered their lives in varied war services, or in that harder, more exacting fight with microbial enemies, is one of those news columns which our eyes have come to scan with a strange mingling of suspense and unwilling, silent complacency. The world, and each of us in it, has become immeasurably poorer because of this great drain upon potential mental energy; and the lost men, as a rule, have had capacities for friendship directly commensurate with their intellectual powers.

Not a few American zoologists were particularly moved by a recent item of this sort; and to the list we are now compelled to append the name of William Erskine Kellicott, who was taken away by pneumonia, after illness of a week, at his home, in Hastings-on-Hudson, N. Y., January 29, 1919. Though but forty years of age, he, among scientists, teachers, critics and friends, had become to many their great, to some their greatest, satisfaction.

His career may be briefly summarized as follows: he was born in Buffalo, N. Y., April 5, 1878, the son of David Simmons Kellicott and Valeria Erskine Stowell. His father, at that time, was head of the science department in the Buffalo State Normal School. His earlier educational training was received entirely at home, so that he began his high school studies, at the age of twelve years, directly from his mother's tuition. This occurred at Columbus, Ohio, the second year of his father's appointment to the chair of biology in Ohio State University. After completion of his high school course, he entered the university, from which he received the degree of Ph.B. in 1898, with election to Sigma Xi. Later, on organization of a chapter

of Phi Beta Kappa at Ohio State, he was chosen to that society also.

His undergraduate work was shaped and pursued with entire reference to a future career in surgery; but his father's death in his senior year changed this cherished plan, and he spent his first post-graduate year in teaching biological subjects in the high school at Marysville, Ohio. The following summer he was a student in the invertebrate zoology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass., and it was at this time that Kellicott decided to devote his energies to zoological science. In the autumn of 1899 he began graduate study at Columbia University, and received the doctorate in 1904, his major thesis being entitled "The Development of the Vascular and Respiratory Systems of *Ceratodus*."

The following positions were occupied by him for the term of years indicated:

In Barnard College, assistant in zoology, '01-'02; tutor, '02-'05; instructor, '05-'06.

In Goucher College, professor of biology, '06-'18.

In College of the City of New York, professor of biology, '18-.

In the Marine Biological Laboratory, instructor in embryology, '11, '12, '14; in charge of the embryology course, '15-.

For the year 1912-13 he was fellow of the Kahn Foundation for the Foreign Travel of American Teachers, and as such was enabled to visit many European countries and numerous centers of interest in Siberia, China, Japan and India. His report to the foundation offers interesting proof of his discriminating analysis of human nature.

In July, 1918, he resigned as assistant statistician of the U. S. Food Administration, having served one year; during this time he devised and put into operation a thorough and efficient system of gathering data from dealers in food all over the country, definitely stamping the square dealer and the profiteer.

He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Society of Zoologists, of the American Naturalists, and of the New York Academy of Sciences.

On September 11, 1901, he was married to Mary Chappel Hicks, of Columbus, Ohio. Their daughter, Janet, fourteen, is now busy with her high school studies.

Not taking into consideration the devotion and thoughtfulness which characterized his home life, the main enthusiasm of this man was in the field of science; and this for the simple reason that he could tolerate nothing except truth. Keenly appreciative of language and literature, still he felt them to be of special value as being a means of giving expression to some sort or phase of truth. As an investigator he very sharply discriminated between the significant and the pointless, a clear, long perspective stretching out before the former, while the latter was given little patience. Kellicott had not chosen a particular problem as his special zoological interest; his research contributed to our knowledge of cytology, normal embryology, correlation, growth measurements, animal breeding and factors influencing development. A second paper dealing with the last-named question was in process of writing at the time of his death. He often reprimanded himself for thus not concentrating his investigative effort, and he doubtless would have selected a special field ere long; but ever insistent with him was the conviction that he must school himself in the current zoological movements of the day, that he might be the better trained and speak and think out of his own experiences. Exacting, though always kindly, in his teaching, he prescribed an even greater degree of discipline for himself. Assumption was seldom a mental experience with him. The following quotation is one of his own selection—"Surely, if there is any knowledge which is of most worth, it is knowledge of the ways by which anything is entitled to be called *knowledge*, instead of being mere *opinion*, or *guesswork*, or *dogma*" (Dewey).

As a teacher Kellicott instinctively knew the art of making subject matter appeal because of its own intrinsic significance; he did not obscure it by obtruding mannerisms or his own personality. Seldom is a man given a greater degree of loyalty by his students, or for better reasons, than was he. As a participant in ad-

ministrative matters, he was broad-minded, simultaneously unafraid and cooperating, independent of precedent and practise where these seemed wasteful or obstructive. His influence seemed uniformly disproportionate to the length of his service and his academic title.

Kellicott's nature was too large to permit expression in one field alone. It was magnetically drawn toward the beautiful in music, in art, in the sculpture and adornment of nature's earth, and in human nature. His capacity for friendship was exceptional; companions of his own age felt themselves rich in the resources which were his; his seniors, startled by his passing, have become aware of how large a place he occupied in their confidence. One of them has written: "I didn't really know how much I loved the lad. I had formed the habit, unconscious till now, of thinking to myself, 'How would that strike Kellicott?'"

Side by side with his straight directness in thought and action, there dwelt a subtle, copious humor, an unstinted unselfishness and generosity, a buoyant gladness, which, as he "dwelt by the side of the road" of human lives, made him, in uncommon degree, "a friend to man."

It is better, and more just, that we do not circumscribe and limit the loss which has come upon science, the teaching profession, and upon his widening circle of friends by attempting to define in words the significance of the death of William Erskine Kellicott. "He is so vivid a man that he defends himself in your own mind against misinterpretation."

ROBERT A. BUDINGTON

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE BRITISH NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

SIR LAZARUS FLETCHER retired on March 3 from the directorship of the Natural History Museum after forty-one years in its service. Previous to his appointment as director in 1909, he had served two years as assistant and twenty-nine years as keeper in the Mineral Department. In connection with the appointment of his successor *Nature* prints the follow-