

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-

ing letter signed by twenty-three distinguished naturalists:

The director of the British Museum (Natural History) is about to retire, and we learn with deep apprehension that the principal trustees, with whom the appointment rests, have received, or are about to receive, from the general body of trustees a recommendation to pass over the claims of scientific men and to appoint a lay official, who is at present assistant secretary. The former directors, Sir Richard Owen, Sir William Flower, and Sir Ray Lankester, like the present director, Sir Lazarus Fletcher, were all distinguished scientific men. The Natural History Museum is a scientific institution. There is a large staff of scientific keepers and assistants. The director has to represent natural history to the public, to other scientific institutions at home, in the dominions and colonies, and in foreign countries, and to the many government departments with which the museum has relations. He must represent it with knowledge and authority. There are few posts with such possibilities of advancing the natural history sciences, of making them useful to the nation and of interpreting them to the public. The existence of the post is a great stimulus to the zeal and ambition of zoologists and geologists.

The arguments alleged in favor of the recommendation are trivial. It is stated that a former director was allowed by the trustees to leave the administrative details to the member of the clerical staff whom it is proposed to promote, that he performed these duties with ability, and during the tenure of the present director retained and extended his powers. It is urged that the tenure of the new director would be short, as he would have to retire in two years under the age limit. It is pleaded that promotion would entitle him to a larger pension, and that he need not be called director, but only acting-director.

Plainly, if the assistant secretary be the only man who knows the details of administration, it is important that the permanent director should be appointed at once, in order to have the opportunity of learning them before taking them over. In actual fact there is nothing in the administrative work of the directorship that could not be learned in a few weeks or months by any person of ordinary intelligence. At least two of the present keepers are eligible for the vacancy, have attained the necessary scientific standing, and have ample experience of the museum itself. To pass over these or several eminent and eligible men not on the staff in favor of one of the ordinary office staff

would be an affront to scientific men and of grave detriment to science.

THE INYO RANGE AND THE MOUNT WHITNEY REGION

THE Inyo Range, the Mount Whitney region and Owens Valley, which lies between these two ranges, in eastern California, are described in a report just issued by the United States Geological Survey, as Professional Paper 110 by Adolf Knopf. This region is off the main lines of travel and is not so well known as other parts of the state, but when the roads and railway facilities are improved, Owens Valley, which affords the easiest access to the region, will certainly become famous for its magnificent scenery. The Sierra Nevada, which reaches its highest point in Mount Whitney, forms the west wall of Owens Valley, and as it rises abruptly above the valley without intervening foothills the range displays its majestic height far more imposingly here than anywhere else along its course. The top of the Sierra Nevada is readily accessible by trails that start from the pleasant towns of Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine and Bishop. Good roads extend into the heart of the range from Bishop, the chief town in Owens Valley, so that an automobile trip of hardly more than an hour will take the traveler to the headwaters of Bishop Creek, whose profoundly glaciated canyons and spacious amphitheatres are among the most impressive in the entire range. The country west of the crest of this part of the Sierra Nevada is included in the proposed Roosevelt National Park.

The region is rich in mineral resources—silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, gold and marble—and the waters of Owens Lake yield soda and other chemicals. The mines at Cerro Gordo, in the Inyo Range, have produced more silver-lead ore than any other mine in California, their output of base bullion between 1869 and 1877 amounting to \$7,000,000. After those early flush times the mines long lay idle, but in recent years they have been reopened, and Cerro Gordo has again become California's foremost producer of lead ore.