

The development of the museum during the next five years in preparation for its golden jubilee will, it is hoped, include three great features, namely, extension of building, firm foundation of popular municipal maintenance, and increase of the general or unrestricted endowment fund to \$5,000,000, the amount needed to place the museum on a financially sure foundation for the coming quarter of a century.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

HERBERT HUNTINGTON SMITH

THE wide circle of his friends and acquaintances were shocked to read in the daily journals that on March 22 Mr. Herbert Huntington Smith, the curator of the Alabama Museum, had been killed by being run over by a freight train. In recent years he had become very deaf, and it was owing to this infirmity that he came to his untimely end. Once before, in the city of Pittsburgh, he had been struck by an electric car, the approach of which he had not observed, but fortunately escaped at that time, with only a few bruises.

A number of years ago Lord Walsingham in an address before the Entomological Society of London in speaking of the work of field naturalists and the additions made by them to the sum of human knowledge, made the statement that the two ablest collectors were Americans, one of them the late William H. Doherty, the other Herbert Huntington Smith. With both of these men the writer of these lines was intimately associated, both of them having made extensive collections for him in foreign parts, and both came to their end under tragic circumstances. Doherty died in Uganda, as the result of nervous prostration brought about partly by exposure, partly by the fact that his camp was haunted by man-eating lions, which had killed several of his assistants. Smith passed away in the midst of important activities, as the result of a horrible accident.

My acquaintance with Mr. Herbert Huntington Smith, which has covered nearly thirty years of his life, enables me to speak of him with an appreciation founded upon intimate knowledge.

He was born at Manlius, New York, on January 21, 1851. He studied at Cornell University from 1868 to 1872. In 1870 he accompanied his friend and teacher, the late Professor C. F. Hartt, on an excursion to the Amazons. He thus caught his first glimpse of tropical life, which wove about him a spell which always thereafter bound him.

In 1874 he returned to Brazil for the purpose of collecting and studying the fauna of the Amazonian regions. Two years were spent in the neighborhood of Santarem, and subsequently he passed a year in explorations upon the northern tributaries of the Amazons and the Tapajós, after which he stayed about four months in Rio de Janeiro. Returning to the United States he was commissioned by the Messrs. Scribner to write a series of articles upon Brazil for their magazine, and accordingly made two more trips to that country, studying the industries, social and political conditions, and investigating the famine district in Ceará. On one of these journeys he was accompanied by Mr. J. Wells Champney, who was employed to prepare illustrations for his articles. One of the results of these journeys was the volume entitled "Brazil, the Amazons and the Coast," which was issued by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1879. On October 5, 1880, Mr. Smith married Miss Amelia Woolworth Smith, of Brooklyn, New York. She entered with zest into his labors, and in all the years which followed was his devoted and most capable assistant. There was a remarkable accord in their tastes and Mrs. Smith developed unusual skill and efficiency in the manipulative processes involved in collecting specimens of natural history. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that her learned husband would not have been able to accomplish the vast amount of work, which was achieved in later years, had it not been for her facile fingers. She became an accomplished taxidermist, and was able to prepare the skins of birds and preserve insects, in the most approved manner. Mr. Smith and his wife spent the years from 1881 to 1886 in Brazil. He made his general headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, where he received much encourage-

ment from the Emperor, Dom Pedro II., who was deeply interested in scientific research. During these years he traveled extensively and spent a long time in exploring the then little known territory along the upper waters of the Rio Paraguay and the Rio Guaporé on the western confines of Brazil, in the vicinity of Matto Grosso and Chapada. The extensive series of specimens which he gathered during these years of fruitful collecting were acquired partly by the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, partly by Mr. D. F. Godman of London, and partly by the writer of these lines, who subsequently purchased most of the lepidoptera, and, at a later date by the Carnegie Museum, which secured most of the vast collection of insects which Mr. Smith had made, numbering approximately thirty thousand species and not far from two hundred thousand specimens.

In 1886 there appeared in Portuguese from his pen an account of some of his travels, entitled "De Rio de Janeiro á Cuyabá." Mr. F. D. Godman, whose monumental work, the "Biologia Centrali-Americana," called for an intensive study of the fauna of Mexico, commissioned Mr. Smith to make collections for him in that country, and he labored there during the year 1889. He spent much of his time in the years 1890-1895 in the employment of the West Indian Commission of the Royal Society in making collections in Trinidad and the Windward Islands, and in reporting upon the same. These collections are in the British Museum. During the same years he was actively engaged as one of the staff of writers employed in the preparation of the "Century Dictionary," the "Century Cyclopedia of Names," and "Johnson's Cyclopedia." In these works almost everything relating to South and Central America and the fauna and flora of these lands is from his pen.

When plans were being formed for the development of the Carnegie Museum, Mr. Smith took occasion, not only in letters but by personal visits to the writer, to urge the desirability of selecting as one of the major objects of the new institution, a biological survey of South America. While it was not at that

time possible to fully accept his proposals, one of the results of his visits to Pittsburgh, was his employment by the infant museum to act in a curatorial capacity, devoting himself to the formation of collections illustrating the natural resources of the region of which Pittsburgh is the metropolis. Assisted by his wife and various volunteers he made extensive collections representing the flora and fauna of western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. These collections number many tens of thousands of insects, shells, and plants, as well as fishes, reptiles, birds, and small mammalia. When not in the field, he devoted his time to the arrangement of collections which began to rapidly come into the possession of the museum.

He was not, however, entirely happy in the confinement of the walls of a museum. He constantly heard "the call of the wild," and his heart longed for the life of the tropics, in which he had passed so many happy years. He proposed to the authorities of the Carnegie Museum that he should be allowed to go to the United States of Colombia to make collections. The writer agreed himself to become the purchaser of the collections of lepidoptera which might be made, the Carnegie Museum agreed to purchase the birds, a set of the mammals, the ethnological material which might be gathered, and to take one or more sets of the botanical specimens collected. Accompanied by his wife and young son he set out for Colombia to begin his work in the Province of Santa Marta. One of the chronic revolutions of that period developed and he encountered much difficulty. The period from the fall of 1898 to the spring of 1902 was spent in this work. It was a period of trial and hardship. Mr. Smith finally fell ill and it was feared that he would not recover. When at last he was pronounced to be out of danger the party hastened to return to the United States and thenceforth all thought of further investigations in the tropics was abandoned. The collections made in the face of hardship and disease were nevertheless large and valuable and contained many species wholly new to science.

Mr. Smith and his wife on their return, resumed their employment at the Carnegie Museum, devoting themselves to the arrangement of the Colombian material and to the classification of the large and increasing collections of mollusca belonging to the museum. One of the results of this period is the "Catalog of the Genus *Partula*" which was published in 1902. After about a year in Pittsburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Smith felt the need of a change and resolved upon removal to Wetumpka, Ala., where they began the systematic collection of fresh-water shells, belonging to the family of Strepomatidæ, which abound in the Coosa and other rivers of that region. They were supported in their work by four ardent conchologists: Mr. George H. Clapp, of Pittsburgh, Messrs. John B. Henderson and T. H. Aldrich, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Bryant Walker, of Detroit, Mich., who formed a "syndicate" to enable the work to be done. When Mr. Aldrich dropped out of their number, Professor H. A. Pilsbry, of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, took the vacant place for such time as he was able to command the necessary funds. In 1910 Dr. Eugene A. Smith, of the Geological Survey of Alabama, induced Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith to take charge of the museum at the University of Alabama, and here they have been engaged for nearly a decade in arranging and caring for the collections which have been accumulated principally by the Geological Survey of Alabama. For the past two or three years the Alabama Museum and the Carnegie Museum have been working conjointly in the exploration of the Tertiary deposits of Alabama, under the oversight of Mr. Smith, and the result has been discovery of a number of new and rich deposits of Tertiary mollusca. Vast series of specimens had been gathered by our indefatigable friends, and the last letter received by the writer contained a request for a fresh supply of labels. It was written only a day or two before the lamented death of the sender.

Mr. Smith was not a mere collector of natural history specimens. He was a naturalist in the true sense of that much abused word.

He had a wide and accurate knowledge of the major divisions of the animal kingdom and keen powers of discrimination. He was especially well versed in conchology, though he wrote and published but little. He was a systematist of far more than ordinary ability, whose opinions were received with great respect by those who employed him. He was an accomplished linguist. He was familiar with the Greek and Latin classics, spoke Spanish readily and used Portuguese as if it were his mother tongue. He also had a good knowledge of French and German, sufficient to enable him to consult works in those languages. He was one of the survivors of a group of naturalist explorers and investigators to whom we are indebted for much of our knowledge of the fauna and flora of tropical America. He belonged to an illustrious company which, beginning with Humboldt and Bonpland, included in its ranks such men as Alfred Russel Wallace, Henry W. Bates, J. N. Natterer, J. J. Tschudi, J. B. Hatcher and J. D. Haseman, who courageously faced dangers in the wilderness in order to secure information at first hand as to the fauna and flora of the great continent where they labored.

W. J. HOLLAND

CARNEGIE MUSEUM

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

PASADENA MEETING OF THE PACIFIC
DIVISION

THE third annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Pasadena, Calif., during the period June 19-22, 1919. On account of the war no meeting was held in 1918.

The address of the retiring president, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, on "Growth of Organisms" will be delivered on Thursday evening in the Palm Room of the Hotel Maryland, following which a public reception will be held. The address of welcome will be given by President James A. B. Scherer, of Throop College of Technology, and the response by