social need of our day; but cooperation has its unorganized as well as its organized forms, and certainly the unorganized cooperation of men, based on a sheer feeling of community, is not less valuable than organized cooperation, which may or may not have this feeling of community behind it. It is easier to do most things with organization than without; but organization is to a great extent only the scaffolding without which we should find the temple of human cooperation too difficult to build.

To say this is not to decry organization; it is only to refrain from worshiping it. Organization is a marvelous instrument through which we every day accomplish all manner of achievements which would be inconceivable without it; but it is none the less better to do a thing without organization if we can, or with the minimum of organization that is necessary. For all organization, as we have seen, necessarily carries with it an irreducible minimum of distortion of human purpose; it always comes down to some extent, to letting other people do things for us instead of doing them ourselves, to allowing, in some measures, the wills of "representatives" to be substituted for our own wills. Thus while it makes possible in one way a vast expansion of the field of self-expression that is open to the individual, it also in another way distorts that expression and makes it not completely the individual's own.

In complex modern communities there are so many things that must be organized that it becomes more than ever important to preserve from organization that sphere in which it adds least to, and is apt to detract most from, our field of self-expression—the sphere of personal relationships and personal conduct.

WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER

NELSON R. WOOD

FOR many years I knew the late Mr. Nelson R. Wood, who suddenly died in Washington on November eighth, and during all those years he was employed in the taxidermical department of the United States National Museum. As a scientific and artistic taxidermist he had not a single equal in this country, and I personally never knew of his peer anywhere in the world. Birds were ever the special objects of his skill, and to the mounting of them for museum exhibition the greater part of his life was almost daily devoted. While a consummate master with birds of all groups, certain families of them were his especial favorites, and these he preserved in a manner so perfect that they appeared to need but the instillation of life to have them go their way as they did in nature when alive. The forms particularly referred to were the game birds, pigeons, and fowls of all descriptions, and many of these, together with a host of others, are now on exhibition in the cases at the United States National Museum, where they will probably be viewed for many generations to come.

It has been my privilege to publish, in various works both here and abroad, over a hundred of Mr. Wood's mounted specimens of birds and many species—not only those of this country, but of all the Americas, Australia, and other parts of the Old World as well. They have ever been received and spoken of with more than marked approval and highly praised, as they well deserved to be.

It is not easy to estimate the far-reaching loss the death of such a man is to a great museum, where high-class taxidermical work is so essential and so constantly in demand. In the entire history of the scientific art of taxidermy in America, no one has ever left such mounted specimens of game birds, pigeons, and domesticated fowls as Mr. Wood, while in the case of many of the passerine types he was equally skilful. Only a short time before his death he mounted several specimens of crows and jays—single pieces—and the work is the wonder of all who see it. One of our common Crow in particular is the most life-like thing of the kind that one may well imagine; it represents the height of the science in regard to modern taxidermy, which passed, only within comparatively recent time, from the antiquated methods of "stuffing" birds to the practise of imperishably preserving them in their natural poses.

Mr. Wood gained his knowledge of the normal attitudes of birds in nature through his life-long study of them in their various habitats. More than this—he had so skilfully

mastered the imitation of the notes and calls of a large number of birds of many species, both wild and domesticated ones, that it was truly wonderful to witness some of his achievements along such lines. When a flock of crows was flying far overhead, I have seen him call them all down, alighting all about him, all giving vent to those notes they are accustomed to give when one of their kind is in trouble and cawing for help. It was remarkable to note the effect his marvelous imitations in this way produced on many kinds of birds in domestication as well as those in nature.

R. W. Shufeldt

FRANZ STEINDACHNER

Franz Steindachner, for many years intendant or chief director of the Hofmuseum at Vienna, died on December 10, 1919, at the advanced age of 85. His death was due directly to the inability of the Austrian Museum to secure coal to warm any of its offices.

Steindachner, a student and friend of Agassiz, spent some time at Harvard, about 1870, later collecting fishes in California and Brazil. His first systematic paper on the fossil fishes of Austria was published in 1859. From that time until 1914 when the war wrecked his nation, his memoirs on fishes, living and fossil, some 440 in all, appeared with great regularity. These were always carefully prepared and finely illustrated by the stone engravings of his most excellent artist, Edward Konopicky.

His last series of papers in quarto dealing with certain fishes of Brazil passed into the hands of the British censor, an obstacle from which but one copy has yet come across.

Steindachner conferred his attention to faunal work. especially to exact definition of genera and species. The larger combinations he left to less experienced investigators on the principle laid down by Linnæus. "*Tyro novit classes; magister fit species.*" Within the field as thus limited, no German systematist in vertebrate zoology has stood in the class with him.

When the Imperial government razed the fortifications of old Vienna, the property on the street thus opened, the "Burgring," was sold and with the proceeds three imperial public buildings were erected, the Opera House, Library and the Museum of Natural History. The last was long since placed in Steindachner's charge, but with a wholly inadequate force, and with little provision for extension. In the fishes, Steindachner had the services of an artist and a preparator, but had to do all the identification and labelling himself, and to pay from his own means for all specimens he felt it necessary to buy.

In his devotion to his work, he never married and when I visited him in 1910 he occupied humble lodgings in a stone annex to the museum, cared for only by an elderly housekeeper. To the general public he was known as a "*Bekanter Fischkenner.*" To his colleagues he was one of the most trustworthy and most devoted lovers of knowledge for its own sake. Among the tragedies of the great war nothing is more disheartening than its smothering effect on European science, one feature of which has been the death of this great master in faunal zoology.

David Starr Jordan

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SIGMA XI AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The society of the Sigma Xi of the university will hold its next meeting in the medical laboratory on Wednesday evening, January 19. The subject for discussion will be "Wheat; a Study in the World's Food Supply." Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, professor of physiologial chemistry, will open the discussion. Dr. Taylor was one of the advisers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture during the war and who made several food surveys in Europe for the State Department. After he has made a survey of the subject the discussion will be continued by Dr. Clyde L. King, of the Wharton School faculty, who will speak on the situation in the United States. Dr. Ernest M. Patterson, also of the Wharton