

tions of an organization adapted for such coordinate responsibility with the National Research Council in designating electors, these are essential: That it shall represent the interest involved, shall be permanent, shall be progressively adaptable to the evolution of its function, shall be so organized as to perform this function with a genuine interest and forethought, and shall command a position of recognized dignity and integrity.

C. E. SEASHORE

DIVISION OF ANTHROPOLOGY
AND PSYCHOLOGY,
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ALFRED GOLDSBOROUGH MAYOR

AMERICAN men of science have lost a highly esteemed colleague and friend in the untimely death, at his laboratory at Tortugas, Florida, on June 24, of Alfred Goldsborough Mayor. For about three years past he has been making a heroic struggle against a tubercular infection, followed during the last winter by a severe attack of influenza, while he was at Tucson, Arizona; but the end came sooner than either he or his intimate associates anticipated.

Mayor was born at Frederick, Maryland, April 16, 1868. His early life was spent at Maplewood, New Jersey, where his family lived while his distinguished father was professor of physics at Stevens Institute of Technology. His easy aptitude for learning in general doubtless led him to pursue a course of study in that institute, and he was awarded the degree of mechanical engineer there in 1889. Later on he turned his attention to zoology and pursued studies at Harvard University leading to the degree of doctor of science in 1897. For some years he was intimately associated with Professor Alexander Agassiz as a trusted assistant in the development of the museum of comparative zoology at Harvard and in the other fertile enterprises of Agassiz. From 1900 to 1904 he was curator of the natural sciences of the museum of the Brooklyn Institute. Since 1904 he has been director of the department of marine biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the more important results of his investigations, and of the investigations

of his numerous associates made at the Tortugas laboratory and during his expeditions elsewhere are to be found in the publications of the institution of the past two decades.

A just estimate of the scientific work of Mayor must be left to more competent hands. It is more fitting in a brief notice to call attention to the characteristics he manifested as a man among men. He possessed and practiced in high degree four cardinal virtues of which the world at large is now in great need, namely, the virtues of integrity, industry, reciprocity and moral courage. Although of a distinctly artistic and poetic temperament, he had unusual capacity to see and to understand realities. Few among our contemporaries have understood so well as he the arithmetical limitations, for example, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Few men approach the problems of life with the degree of insight and foresight he brought to bear upon them. It is commonly held that men of science are incompetent in fiscal affairs; but this is only an obscure way of stating the fact that men as a rule are inefficient in business. Mayor was a marked exception to the rule. Whatever he undertook was well considered and well executed, and it was never essential to even suggest the aid of a public auditor to interpret his accounts. His versatility was equal to almost any emergency. He was equally at home in the navigation of a ship, in the construction of a laboratory, in the delineation of the delicate tissues of a jelly-fish, and in his associations with the natives of the South Sea Islands. He accepted the situation, whatever it was, and without complaint sought only to improve its conditions. Never aggressive but always persuasive, he was one of the most unselfish of men. In the conduct of his laboratory and of his expeditions, his personal interests were the last to be considered. He afforded a continuous example of the joy in life that comes from getting something worth while well done. He made it easy for, and a source of the highest pleasure to, his associates who worked with him. His normal span was cut short by insidious disease, but he left an impressive and inspiring record in the fields of altruistic endeavor.

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