biological research lies in its ready accessibility and its nearness to the highly civilized cities of the Canal Zone. Perhaps after a taste of the tropics here and an introduction to tropical conditions and methods more zoologists will desire to venture into the less accessible tropical regions.

Official information concerning the facilities available at Barro Colorado Island can be obtained from the resident custodian, Mr. Jas. Zetek, Ancon, C. Z., or from Dr. Thos. Barbour, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. I shall be glad to answer personal inquiries to the best of my knowledge.

W. C. ALLEE

DR. WILLIAM JAMES BEAL

DR. WILLIAM JAMES BEAL died on May 12, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ray Stannard Baker, Amherst, Mass.

Dr. Beal was in his ninety-second year, the oldest citizen of his town and the oldest graduate of his college, the University of Michigan. He was also one of the earliest students of Louis Agassiz at Harvard College. He had a long and honorable career, having been for over fifty years a teacher of science, at an early time at the University of Chicago and later, for forty years, he was professor of botany at the Michigan Agricultural College. He wrote a number of important scientific works, the chief of which was an exhaustive study, in two volumes, of the "Grasses of North America," which remains a standard work upon that subject.

He was a pioneer in the new methods of scientific education, having gone to Harvard College after his graduation from Michigan University, where he studied under Agassiz and Asa Gray, and was in one of the early classes in chemistry taught by President, then Professor, Eliot. He took his degree at Harvard in 1865. He was one of the earliest teachers to use the laboratory methods of Agassiz. His "New Botany," published in 1881, inspired many a younger teacher of science. Not a few of his students have become distinguished botanists, horticulturists and foresters. He was an indefatigable worker, with the habit, almost the passion, for independent observation and study. He was like a child eager to open each new package that Nature presented, to see what it contained. He rarely passed a tree or a shrub or a flower without turning to see the other side of it. He infected his students with this enthusiasm to know nature, and to know at first hand. He had certain maxims which he kept constantly before them. Here are some of them:

"Merely learning the name of a plant or parts of a plant can no longer be palmed off as a valuable training."

"In the whole course of botany, the student trains for power more than for knowledge."

"Details and facts before principles and conclusions."

"An eye trained to see is valuable in any kind of business."

Dr. Beal was not only a careful and thorough scientist, but he had a keen interest in spreading scientific knowledge through organizations of every kind. He was one of the organizers and the first president of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, he was director for some years of the Michigan State Forestry Commission, he was president of the Michigan State Teachers' Association and an energetic member of the Botanical Society of America, the American Pomology Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and other similar organizations. He had degrees from three universities and was awarded honorary doctors' degrees by the University of Michigan, the Michigan Agricultural College and Syracuse University.

But among the students who passed through his classes in fifty years—and they were a legion—it is doubtful whether he had more of influence as a scientist or as a man. For he had qualities of unremitting industry, sincerity of mind, simplicity of habit, together with a characteristic dry humor, which left an indelible impression upon every one with whom, especially at the zenith of his long life, he came into contact. He was of pioneer Quaker stock, born in Michigan in 1833, when it was still a wilderness. He had to fight for an education, working every step of his way through one school after another, beginning with a backwoods seminary and keeping at it until he found himself studying marine biology with Louis Agassiz at Harvard and corresponding with Charles Darwin. He lived all his life with a kind of Spartan simplicity. He not only never used liquor or tobacco, but never drank tea or coffee. He always left the table when, as he said, "he could relish half as much more." He began early, when such things were rare in college, the deliberate and habitual practice of exercising, insisting until he was nearly ninety years old in running a few hundred yards every day, or sawing so many sticks of wood.

"I studied and labored industriously," he said, "because it gave me joy."

He was of a cheerful disposition, and his old age was full of tranquillity and happiness. He spent the last fourteen years of his life in a garden of Amherst. He was ill only three days before his death and even during that time suffered little. At the very last, when asked how he was, he remarked, "Getting better." He died peacefully in his sleep.

He leaves one daughter, Mrs. Ray Stannard Baker, four grandchildren and one great grandson. He will rest in the family cemetery near the scene of his long labors, at Lansing, Michigan.

R. S. B.