

was also the author of "The Non-metallic Minerals—Their Occurrence and Uses."³ He was an accepted expert on building-stones and his opinions were sought on such important buildings as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Cathedral.

The collections of minerals and gems in the National Museum were always conspicuously among his favorites. It was largely through his efforts that the Isaac Lea collection of gems and, more recently, the Roebling and Canfield collections of minerals were presented to the museum and, it may be added, with endowments of funds for their continuance. He was the responsible author of the "Hand-book and Descriptive Catalogue of the Collections of Gems and Precious Stones in the U. S. National Museum."⁴

The collection of meteorites in the National Museum early became one of the objects of his special interest. According to Dr. H. S. Washington, "It is one of the great meteorite collections of the world and it will always remain one of his greatest memorials." Merrill was the author of sixty papers on meteorites in which he describes forty new falls, more, probably, than any other writer. His scientific studies on these interesting objects have been most valuable, especially of the minerals of which these are composed, one of which bears the name of "Merrillite" in his honor. The J. Lawrence Smith medal of the National Academy of Sciences was given him in 1922 in recognition of his researches in this field.

The work which crowned his many contributions in this domain and which brought him much gratification in the closing days of his long life was the publication in 1929 of his joint book on "Minerals from Earth and Sky," which was issued as the third volume in the set of popular scientific treatises issued under the name of Smithsonian Scientific Series.

During recent years much of his leisure was devoted to the history of geology, on which subject his opinion was accepted as the last word. He prepared for the 1904 annual report of the U. S. National Museum "Contributions to the History of American Geology," which rewritten and expanded became "The First One Hundred Years of American Geology," 1924, and he also compiled the valuable "History of American State Geological and Natural History Surveys" which appeared as Bulletin 109 of the museum series, 1920.

His honors were many and included the presidency of the Geological Society of Washington in 1906, vice-presidency of the Geological Society of America in 1920 and membership in the National Academy of Sciences from 1922 and in the American Philosophical Society from 1923.

³ 1904, second edition 1910.

⁴ 1922, issued as Bulletin 118.

Merrill's larger works have already been mentioned and his smaller papers, variously contributed, are more than one hundred and fifty in number. He was never idle and he was a large contributor to nearly all the recent standard works of reference. The definitions of building-stones in the "Standard Dictionary" were by him, and the sketches of geologists in the "Dictionary of American Biography" came from his pen.

Last May on Merrill's seventy-fifth birthday his colleagues and friends celebrated the occasion with a dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington at which there were more than sixty persons present. At that time the present writer said:

In a few years the Smithsonian will celebrate its centenary, and I can not but believe that when that event occurs, there will be those who will trace the history of that great institution and who will have much to say about the work of the eminent Henry, and they will review the valuable contributions made by the distinguished Baird. Those who are living in that day will learn more of the researches of the able and much-loved Goode, and will come a little closer to the eminent if disappointed Langley, and somewhere there will be told something of the important results achieved by Merrill, so that his name will shine with added glory among this galaxy of scientists, contributing much to his own fame and reflecting luster on the reputation of the great institution which he has served so faithfully during the many years of his long life.

MARCUS BENJAMIN

RECENT DEATHS

FRANK HURLBUT CHITTENDEN, entomologist in the bureau of entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died unexpectedly on September 15. Mr. Chittenden was in his seventy-first year.

DR. SETH MACCUEEN SMITH, professor of otology at the Jefferson Medical College and head of that department at Jefferson Hospital, died suddenly on September 14. He was in his sixty-seventh year.

SIR EDWARD MAUNDE THOMPSON, distinguished for his work in paleography, for more than twenty years director of the British Museum, died on September 15 at the age of eighty-nine years.

Nature reports the death of Dr. T. J. P.A. Bromwich, F.R.S., formerly fellow and prælector in mathematical science at St. John's College, Cambridge, and university lecturer in mathematics, on August 24, aged fifty-four years, and of Professor S. B. Schryver, F.R.S., professor of biochemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, on August 21, aged sixty years.