of birds he phoned me to breakfast with him at the White House to make sure of a species of warbler then visiting the tall elms south of the mansion. His identification of the little birds as blackpoll warblers proved correct.

Another time, when that remarkable man, Ambassador Bryce, had expressed a desire to see in life our American kingfisher and the red-eyed pipilo or towhee, the President led us to places well known to him in the forest north of the city, where both birds were seen and heard—much to the ambassador's satisfaction.

In later years, when living in Washington, he joined Vernon Bailey and me in a twilight bicycle trip up Rock Creek to see a beaver (presumably an escape from the Zoo) which had temporarily established itself on that stream. He was "delighted" to see the beaver cut a willow and swim with it to a floating log, where he sat up and ate the bark.

Few people are aware of Roosevelt's knowledge of mammals and their skulls. One evening at my house (where I then had in the neighborhood of five thousand skulls of North American mammals) he astonished every one—including several eminent naturalists—by picking up skull after skull and mentioning the scientific name of the genus to which each belonged.

He was deeply impressed by the gigantic size of the great Kadiak bear as contrasted with the Rocky Mountain grizzlies, and several times brought friends to see for themselves the enormous difference between the skull of an old male Idaho grizzly and that of one of these giant Kadiaks—the two standing side by side on my desk.

On one occasion, before a meeting of the Biological Society of Washington, he crossed swords with me in regard to the validity of several species of coyote as shown by their skulls.

Roosevelt's publications on hunting and on the game animals of the Plains and Rocky Mountains,[3] his daring exploration into unknown parts of South America,[4] his excellent accounts of African game animals,[5] his "Biological Analogies in History," "A Booklover's Holiday in the Open," and his critical work on "Revealing and Concealing Coloration in Birds and Mammals" rank among the more important of his contributions to the knowledge of nature.

He had great respect for genuine hunters—the kind who endure hardship, exhibit prowess and tell the truth—such men as Selous, Warburton Pike, George Bird Grinnell and Charles Sheldon. Early in his career in the White House he asked to be notified when out-of-town hunters came to the city. So when the Canadian hunter and sub-arctic explorer Warburton Pike had arrived, Sheldon and I were requested to bring him to dine at the White House. The time happened to be a particularly busy one politically, and we were warned that the President must excuse himself directly after dinner. But instead, he took us upstairs and kept us in his den till midnight. He was several times interrupted by messengers, but declined to see them. Finally his son-in-law (Nicholas Longworth) came with an important telegram. Roosevelt waved him away with the remark that he was not to be interrupted—that for this one night he felt entitled to enjoy himself.

Theodore Roosevelt lived during the period of ultra-microscopic specialization in the study of animate nature—the sad period in which the good old term "natural history" fell into disuse, actually disappearing from text-books and college curricula; nevertheless he was not misled.

The keenness of his observation coupled with his intimate first-hand knowledge of nature enabled him to recognize the necessity for field work and convinced him of the absolute need of museum specimens for exact studies of animals and plants.

He appreciated the work of the Biological Survey and aided it with his personal influence, even incorporating a paragraph about it in at least one of his messages to Congress.

If his major interests had not been diverted into the time-consuming field of politics he would have been one of America's foremost naturalists.

In conclusion, Mr. President, may I express my deep personal gratification that the medal you have seen fit to award me is an acknowledgment and a tribute both to the science of natural history and to the memory of the great man whose name it bears.

OBITUARY

ROBERT DeCOURCY WARD

ROBERT DECOURCY WARD, professor of climatology at Harvard University, died suddenly at Cambridge, Massachusetts, on November 12, 1931. He was born in Boston on November 29, 1867, but at the age of six months was taken to Dresden, Germany, where he remained for four years. He then was one year in Switzerland, one in England, and returned to Boston

[3] "The Deer Family"; "American Big Game Hunting"; "Hunting the Grizzly"; "Hunting Trips on the Prairie"; "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman"; "The Wilderness Hunter"; "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail"; "Hunting in the Cattle Country."

[4] "Through the Brazilian Wilderness."

[5] "African Game Trails"; "Life Histories of African Game Animals" (by Roosevelt and Heller).

in 1874. In 1879 he again went to Dresden for two years. On returning to Boston he entered Noble and Greenough's School (later Noble's School), from which he graduated in 1885. In 1889 he graduated at Harvard, *summa cum laude*. The following year was spent in Europe. In September of 1890 he returned to Harvard as assistant to Professor W. M. Davis in physical geography and meteorology. In 1893 he was made assistant in meteorology; in 1895 instructor in meteorology; in 1896 instructor in climatology; in 1900 assistant professor of climatology; in 1910 professor of climatology. Such was the brilliant teaching career of the first professor of climatology in the United States, a career begun under the stimulus and encouragement of Professor Davis, for whom his affection and admiration never waned, nor had cause to.

Professor Ward's first contribution of importance to meteorology was his study, during the senior year of his undergraduate course, of the sea breeze in New England. While in the Graduate School, where he took the A.M. degree in 1893, he completed an extensive study of the thunderstorms of New England. From 1892 to 1896 he edited the *American Meteorological Journal*, an excellent magazine that suspended publication in this latter year only because its field had become fully occupied by the official *Monthly Weather Review*. He did not take the Ph.D degree, because no instruction adequate therefor was then available in meteorology and climatology, his chosen subjects.

Since he was founding a new school, the school of climatology, it was necessary for him to do a prodigious amount of work in assembling and putting in logical order and making clear all the best work on that subject by others. As he said, it was his chief job to make simple what others had made involved. So devoted was he to his teaching that he continually, year after year, revised his lectures so as to make them as complete and informative as possible. This labor for his classes left relatively little time for writing. Nevertheless, there are far over 300 titles to his credit, exclusive of numerous notes and many reviews. There are also books, four finished, including a translation of the first volume, general climatology, of Hann's "Handbuch der Klimatologie," and books just begun. His best known work, "The Climates of the United States," represents a large amount of personal investigation and also a great deal of guided research on the part of his students. It is an inspiration to the student and a delight to the general reader.

Professor Ward believed that best teaching is based on personal experience. He therefore sought to know the climates which he had most need to discuss. This quest took him to all parts of the United States, the West Indies, South America (three trips), Europe, most portions of the Atlantic Oceaan, and around the world. He planned to write a "Guide Book to the World's Weather and Climate," based largely on his own observations.

Though teaching was his passion, he also had exceptional executive abilities that led to his being chairman (1928–1930) of the Harvard board of freshman advisers; chairman for many years of the executive committee of the Immigration Restriction League, which he helped to found in 1894, and later its president. In 1917 he was president of the Association of American Geographers, and from 1920 to 1922 the efficient first president of the American Meteorological Society. He also was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Philosophical Society, as well as also of a number of other learned organizations both in this country and abroad.

Despite his many duties and extensive careful writings Professor Ward still found time to be human and a delightful companion—rich in information and wisdom or sparkling in wit and humor as the occasion required.

W. J. HUMPHREYS

RECENT DEATHS

ANDREW ALEXANDER BLAIR, author of "The Chemical Analysis of Iron" and numerous papers on chemical analysis, died on January 25 in his eighty-fourth year. He was formerly chief chemist of the U. S. Geological Survey, and for the past fifty years senior partner of Booth, Garrett and Blair, analytical chemists, Philadelphia.

DR. JOHN BROWN FRANCIS HERRESHOFF, metallurgical chemist of New York City, died on January 30 at the age of eighty-one years.

ALEXANDER JAY WURTS, since 1905 professor of applied electricity in the Carnegie Institute of Technology, died on January 21 at the age of sixty-nine years.

THE death on January 30, at the age of sixty-eight years, is announced of James Hillhouse Fuertes, civil engineer, known for his work on sanitation and water supply. Mr. Fuertes was a son of the late Professor Estevan Fuertes, formerly head of the engineering department at Cornell University and the brother of the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes, naturalist and painter of bird life.

EUGENE C. GLOVER, of the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory of the Boston City Hospital, died on Jan-