its geological implications for my purposes and throwing out those that do not apply. Stratigraphic suggests a series of strata or planes, as illustrated in the accompanying diagram. The strata are the equivalent of sub-landscapes which together constitute a total landscape.[12] The stratigraphic view reveals in these different sub-landscapes their important areal quality. Their succession as parts of a total landscape preserves the concept of interrelationship. Thus we recognize in our diagram (1) a physiographical plane or horizon resting upon a geo-morphological base, and (2) other horizons in accordance with the circumstance of the region under investigation.

The planes may be resolved with any or all others in the series. Some planes may be discontinuous, as illustrated by that one for natural vegetation, but all fit into their proper places when they are resolved. Furthermore, these planes, either separately or combined, may be compared with those of other distinct units or regions. This possibility satisfies the comparative philosophy in geography. The serrate edges of the planes imply that boundaries of regions are not mathematically fixed nor are the shapes of the regions necessarily symmetrical. Their extent is limited only by their homogeneity.

"A Stratigraphic View of Geography" does not imply a new kind or phase of geography, but rather is an attempt to vivify the structure of geography. Emphasis is placed upon the important phases of geography, namely, areal description, functional interpretation and comparative relationships and at the same time we keep all the science rooted in the physical earth. The stratigraphic point of view may serve as a guide or control to a systematic approach to geography, to prevent the investigator from straying along tangents and to keep before him constantly the elements which have been here listed as the objectives in geographic research.

OBITUARY

GEORGE WILLIAMSON, 1857–1936

GEORGE WILLIAMSON, professor emeritus of biology and curator of the George Williamson Museum at the Louisiana State Normal College, died at his home in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on January 10, 1936. Professor Williamson was not a research worker, but his service to science, and the natural sciences in particular, was of such outstanding value that a short sketch of his life merits the attention of his more specialized colleagues, who labor in a different manner to advance the borders of knowledge.

Mr. Williamson was born on Dunboyne Plantation, Iberville Parish, Louisiana, into an economic and social régime then on the verge of the war which was to mean its demoralization. One of his earliest memories was the news that his father, Colonel George M. Williamson, then serving under General Beauregard, had been badly wounded at the Battle of Shiloh. After the war, he removed to Guatemala, where his father was envoy. A few years later he went to Germany, by way of Cape Horn, and spent two years there. In early manhood he returned to Louisiana.

The young man's early schooling was by private tutors, and although he twice enrolled in college he never completed the course. Nevertheless, his native intelligence and scholarly habits soon distinguished him from his fellows, and in 1883 he became principal of the first state-supported high school in Louisiana, at Grand Cane. Here he began his collection of Louisiana Indian artifacts, which is to-day probably the best extant. In 1897 he was called to the Louisiana State Normal School at Natchitoches to the chair of biology, the position he filled actively until 1931, when he was made professor emeritus and curator of the George Williamson Museum, which he founded and developed, and which the college had named in his honor.

In years of service Professor Williamson was Louisiana's oldest teacher; in many respects he was her most successful one. He created and nurtured a love of nature in the minds of many at a time when the South was in the stages of recovery and men's thoughts were generally on more material things. He possessed to a marked degree the ability to create in his students of general biology such a love for and lasting interest in nature that hundreds of them, years later and in many walks of life, wrote him for information or called scientific phenomena to his attention. His museum of plant and animal fossils, minerals, Indian artifacts and historical objects was in a large measure built up by the unsolicited gifts of former students. He stimulated others to go into science, and some have made names for themselves in fields as widely separated as conchology and genetics.

Mr. Williamson's peculiar training and early experiences gave him an outlook all his own. He never lost the mannerisms and personal appearance of the Southern gentleman of another day. His lineage was of the best. He was descended from General Butler of the American Revolution, and was the great-grandson of Washington's adopted daughter, Martha Custis,

[12] Sauer recognizes but two phases of a landscape, namely site and the cultural expression.—C. O. Sauer, p. 29, University of Calif. Publications in Geography, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 19–53.

and his nephew, Lawrence Lewis. Characteristically, these facts meant little to him, and he so rarely mentioned them that they were known only to a few people.

This unassuming man studied for the pure love of learning and published only one paper, which concerned his discovery of fossil palm wood in the Jackson Eocene of Louisiana. He wandered at will through the fields of biology, geology and archeology. His knowledge was encyclopedic, and he has been correctly termed a true savant.

Professor Williamson won the silver medal for his Indian collection at the Louisiana Centennial in St. Louis in 1904. He was honorary curator of archeology of the Louisiana Museum of Natural History, formerly librarian of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences and a member of the Louisiana Historical Society. In 1927 he was given a testimonial of esteem by the Louisiana State Board of Education, the bestowal of such an honor being unique in the history of that body.

GORDON GUNTER

RECENT DEATHS

ROY JED COLONY, associate professor of geology at Columbia University, died on March 26 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. TILGHAM B. MARDEN, professor of histology and embryology at the University of Maryland for twenty-seven years, died on March 18. He was sixty-six years old.

DR. MELVIN ALBERT MARTIN, professor of psychology and head of the department at Newcomb College, Tulane University, died on March 27 in his sixty-fifth year.

DR. MALCOLM LA SALLE HARRIS, formerly professor of surgery at the Chicago Polyclinic Surgical School, president of the American Medical Association in 1928–29, died on March 22. He was seventy-three years old.

THE death is announced of Professor Harry Glenn Parkinson, head of the department of agricultural education at the Pennsylvania State College, who has been serving as acting dean of the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the University of Puerto Rico, at the age of forty-six years.

MRS. FREDERICK BEDELL (Mary L. Crehore), wife of Professor Frederick Bedell, of Cornell University, herself a physicist, died on March 17.

THE death is announced of Harold Brown, for the past ten years principal of the Plant and Animal Products Department of the British Imperial Institute.

ALBERT BERZEVICZY, a former minister of Hungary and formerly president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, died on March 22 at the age of eighty-three years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

THE National Research Council of Canada has appointed a committee to study the requirements in respect to research in all branches of forestry, including measures for the better utilization of forest products. The committee is to function as an associate committee of the National Research Council and includes in its membership representatives of the Dominion Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, in addition to the National Research Council; the forestry department of each province; members of the forestry faculties of universities in which there are departments of forestry; the lumber, pulp and paper and allied industries throughout the Dominion, the forest engineering societies, the forest protective associations and the Canadian Forestry Association.

It is understood that the committee will base its preliminary program on the findings of the Conference on Forestry Research held in Ottawa in November, 1935, at which carefully prepared papers, presented by leading authorities in the various branches of forestry throughout Canada, were fully discussed. The conference recommended the appointment of a national committee in order to provide a permanent organization representative of government, industrial, technical and educational interests concerned in the promotion of forestry in all its branches.

Surpassed only by agriculture and mining, the forests of Canada rank third among the primary industries in their contribution to national production. Among the manufacturing industries, pulp and paper production holds first place, and official statistics show that more than four thousand manufacturing plants in Canada depend on wood and paper products as their raw materials. In foreign trade, "wood, wood products and paper" stand second to agricultural products in total value and show a greater excess of exports over imports than any other group.

Represented on the committee are:

Department of the Dominion Government:

Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton, president, National Research Council, Ottawa, Ontario.