name Greenland again appropriate, as it was when the country was originally discovered, permitting again its enthusiastic colonization by people familiar with Norway.

Like the archeologists who unearthed the evidence that the climate in Greenland had changed so radically, the botanist is unable to bring forth the data from meteorology, geology and oceanography which might enable us to understand the change demonstrated. But if we are convinced that we are witnessing just such a climatic change as has characterized the Pleistocene throughout, researchers in these sciences ought to be able to discover the causes at work and thus to find the answer to what is perhaps the greatest riddle of geology.

Meanwhile, there is an immense amount of work to be done in examining plants on the edges of their ranges everywhere. This I expect to push actively myself, and it is my earnest hope that others also may be persuaded to take up the work and push it along until a mass of data and a technique adequate for broad general conclusions may become available.

OBITUARY

RICHARD CRITTENDEN McGREGOR

THE death at Manila, on December 30, 1936, in his sixty-sixth year, of Richard Crittenden McGregor, chief of the division of publications, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and managing editor of the *Philippine Journal of Science,* brought to a close the career of one of the rapidly dwindling number of early American pioneers in scientific work in the Philippines. Born in Sydney, Australia, on February 24, 1871, he was educated in Stanford University, where he obtained his A.B. in 1898. After five years of varied field experiences in Panama, in Lower California and in the U. S. S. *Pathfinder,* he came to the Philippines in 1901 to join the staff, as ornithologist, of the Bureau of Science, which at that time was just being organized. The enthusiasm he put into the then almost virgin field of Philippine ornithology is attested by the fact that our present coordinated knowledge on over 750 species, in about 300 genera, a good number of them being unknown to science before he had taken a hand, is largely due to his efforts. McGregor's basic work on the features of distribution of bird genera and species in the Philippines has furnished one of the most convincing lines of evidence in the faunistic alliances of the various islands in the Archipelago.

But it is not in birds alone that science in the Philippines is indebted to him. He was an inveterate collector of natural history objects. Many species of insects and other animals, as well as of plants, have been described or recorded from many parts of the Philippines that are difficult of access, on the basis of material brought back by McGregor from his numerous field trips.

Although formally designated managing editor of the *Philippine Journal of Science* in 1919, his editorial connection with that paper had long antedated that year. He was largely responsible for making it a worthy exponent of scientific progress in this part of the world. McGregor had, prior to his death, been waging a two-year losing battle with polyneuritis, which rendered him almost a cripple. But, so devoted was he to the task that, a few weeks before the end, when he must have been suffering intense physical pain, he wrote the undersigned from his sick bed (August 2, 1936): "I do nothing but work on copy and proof, and even so am never out of work. I don't mind working Sundays, but I miss wandering around the fields and forests."

Posterity is prone to give all the honor to the United States army and navy forces for the successful implantation of American sovereignty in the Philippines. In the rapid pacification of the Philippines and the progress the country attained under American direction along educational and material lines, their due share of the credit is quite frequently denied the early American civilian workers—educators and scientists of the type of Richard Crittenden McGregor. Careless of his own well-being, absorbed as he was in the stronger call of scientific pursuits, but meticulous to a fault, even to the extent of going out of his way, where it involved the welfare of his coworkers, contagious in his zeal for work, patient, thoroughly human—his were the attributes that would attain the effective conquest of any people.

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HARRY NELSON VINALL

HARRY NELSON VINALL, senior agronomist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, died suddenly on February 22 at his home in Washington, D. C., as the result of a heart attack. He had been connected with the department since 1906, devoting his time to research with forage crops, especially sorghums and grasses. During the last ten years he had been particularly active in pasture research. Born on a farm in Story County, Iowa, the son of George W. and Delina Neal Vinall, he was graduated a bachelor of science from Kansas State Agricultural College in 1903 and a master of science from Cornell