

OBITUARY

ARTHUR WARE SLOCOM

1860-1937

SCIENCE is served in many ways. She is doubtless fond of her spectacular minions whose names commonly appear on important tomes, but certainly she must also cherish her unsung servants who are merely listed in the same works as those "to whom acknowledgments are due." High in the ranks of the latter stood Arthur Ware Slocum, assistant curator of invertebrate paleontology at Walker Museum, University of Chicago, who died on November 20, 1937, in his seventy-eighth year.

Mr. Slocum was born in Milford, Mass., on November 8, 1860, the son of Lewis Slocum and Lucinda Ware. He derived a modest satisfaction from the fact that his ancestry was interwoven with the warp and woof of Colonial New England's best. He was a descendant of Dr. Samuel Fuller of the Mayflower, and six of his forebears were Minute Men who responded to the Lexington Alarm of April 19, 1775. It is not surprising, therefore, that he was an ardent and accomplished genealogist, and for a score of years was an officer of the Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

After a common school education Mr. Slocum went to Milwaukee to enter the straw hat business with an uncle. An increasing interest in science led him to enroll in 1896 for special work in paleontology under Dr. Stuart Weller at the University of Chicago. Although Dr. Weller was ten years his junior, there thus began their happy thirty-year relationship of mentor and student, terminated only by Dr. Weller's untimely death in 1927. At Dr. Weller's suggestion Mr. Slocum spent the year 1898-99 at Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester, N. Y. The next year he was a member of the staff of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Then began in 1901 a profitable thirteen-year term as invertebrate paleontologist for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. In 1914 he again became directly associated with Dr. Weller as assistant curator at the Walker Museum, a position which he held with quiet competence for twenty-three years.

Mr. Slocum published a number of papers between

1906 and 1924. Of these eight, dealing almost entirely with fossil echinoderms and trilobites, represent significant researches. His major contributions to science, however, are not to be found in his publications. He arranged and catalogued the largest collection of Paleozoic invertebrates in any educational institution, prepared hundreds of fossils for study, made up the plates for innumerable papers, and, more or less surreptitiously, guided literally dozens of candidates for the doctorate through their thesis problems. Little wonder that scores of genera and species of Paleozoic fossils have been named in his honor.

Mr. Slocum, whose perpetual good humor and self-sacrificing character were proverbial, was intellectually keen until the day of his death, having been working on Devonian trilobites the last few weeks of his final illness. He is survived by his wife, an adopted daughter and by many generations of graduate students whom he regarded as "his boys," and who, to a man, rightly feel that "Walker Museum can never be the same again."

CAREY CRONEIS

WALKER MUSEUM,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. JOHN ALEXANDER LOW WADDELL, bridge engineer, died on March 3 at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. LOUIS C. SCHROEDER, associate professor of pediatrics at Cornell University Medical School, died on February 25. He was fifty-six years old.

DR. THOMAS BARNES FUTCHER, visiting physician at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, recognized for his work as diagnostician, died on February 25. He was sixty-seven years old and had been connected with the hospital since 1894.

THE Marconi Memorial Foundation, New York City, announces that contributions aggregating \$30,000 for the erection of a monument in Washington to Guglielmo Marconi had been received, although the campaign to raise money for the project was not yet fully under way. A bill to authorize the erection of the monument has been introduced in Congress.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE

DEVELOPMENTS of the work of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, which last year celebrated its jubilee, are described in the London *Times* in a summary of the annual report of the institute for 1937.

In a foreword to the report Sir Harry Lindsay, the director, discloses for the first time how narrowly the

Imperial Institute escaped extinction during the economic depression, when Dominion contributions were withdrawn and in some cases Colonial grants were reduced. He states that if it had not been for the generosity of one or two private benefactors the institute would have been compelled either to curtail its activities even more drastically than it did or else to