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 Slocom, assistant curator of invertebrate paleontology at Walker Museum, University of Chicago, who died on November 20, 1937, in his seventy-eighth year.

Mr. Slocom was born in Milford, Mass., on November 8, 1860, the son of Lewis Slocom 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. Slocom 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. Slocom 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. Slocom 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. Slocom, 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

close down altogether. In 1933–34, however, almost all the Colonial Governments agreed to double their existing rates of contribution, the United Kingdom Government substantially increased its support, and as a result of these efforts and of the resumption of contributions by the Union of South Africa, New Zealand and Newfoundland and the decision of the Government of Burma to support the institute, the position has been improved. Through the support of the Union Government of South Africa and a donation of £1,000 by Sir Robert Hadfield it has been possible to restore the staff of the mineral resources intelligence section nearly to full strength.

The exhibition galleries, the cinema and the Empire film library are referred to by Sir Harry Lindsay as representing the institute's activities in visual instruction in Empire affairs, and they have earned for it the title "An Empire Storyland." School parties formed the major part of the visitors to the galleries during the year. The galleries have been rearranged on a system which links the various Empire Courts into which they are divided in a sequence consistent with world geography. Each has its own color scheme; its contents comprise photographs, photographic transparencies, statuettes of Empire builders, dioramas and new types of exhibits that tell the story of the Empire's premier industries from the raw material of the producing country to the manufactured products of the world's markets.

The Empire film library, begun by the Empire Marketing Board, circulates to schools its own cinematographic romances of life, scenery and industries. Between the Empire film library, the cinema at the institute and the G.P.O. film unit, for which the institute acts as agent, the aggregate of the audiences to whom the films were shown in 1937 attained the record of 5,000,000, chiefly school children. The number of copies of films in the library is 1,300, and the number of borrowers has increased from 22,785 in 1936 to 24,600 in 1937.

The work of the mineral resources department has increased considerably. Technical inquiries totalled 1,101, an increase of nearly 19 per cent. over 1936, and the laboratory investigations involved the examination of 317 samples from 30 countries. The intelligence section of the plant and animal products department dealt with about 1,200 inquiries from over 40 empire countries.

THE REPRINTING OF HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

A SMALL committee, presided over by Professor B. Němec, met at Prague on December 3 and 4, to study the possibility of publishing old scientific works.

This question has been raised by Professor Němec, in the name of the Czechoslovak Research Council, and has been adopted as part of the plan of scientific work of the International Organization for Intellectual Cooperation, by the executive committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions, acting as a committee of scientific advisers.

This committee unanimously agreed that it would be desirable to publish a collection of manuscripts or works on the exact and natural sciences, printed copies of which are extremely rare or almost inaccessible. A collection of this kind would show the common origins of modern scientific culture and would be of great value to all interested in the historical development of the exact and natural sciences.

Considering the strictly international character of the undertaking the committee recommended that it be entrusted to the International Organization for Intellectual Cooperation. It was of the opinion that such a collection should not be confined to one branch of science alone and that it should embrace all the periods in the development of science since the Middle Ages. The committee further recommended that the publications might be divided into two series:

1. A series of facsimiles relating to very rare manuscripts or works containing engravings or illustrations indispensable for the value of such works.
2. A series of reprints of fundamental classical works in the development of the sciences, copies of which are extremely rare or no longer obtainable. In this series provision might also be made for the publication of manuscripts that have never been printed.

The committee suggests the publication in facsimile of the following manuscripts in the order given below:

1. "De Revolutionibus orbium caelestium," by Nicolas Copernic.
2. "De proprietatibus rerum," de Bartholomeus Anglicus. The committee was of the opinion that the publication in facsimile should be limited to the illustrations which appeared in all the editions. A summary of each chapter of the original work, with a biography of the author should accompany the illustrations.
3. "Micrographia," by Robert Hooke.

In addition, the committee suggests the reprinting of very rare works or the publication of hitherto unpublished manuscripts. It proposes the publication of the following works in the order given:

1. "New System of Chemical Philosophy," by John Dalton.
2. "Publication of a selection of letters from the scientific correspondence of Jean Hevellius, astronomer and selenographer." The greater part of this correspondence is at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.
3. "Opuscula Botanitii argumenti," by Rudolph Camerarius.