Rose Polytechnic Institute. In the new determination my value or the mean of my value and Morley's was about one part in 5,000 different from either. I have just a little pride in the fact that the value which is now most generally accepted in the tables comes a little closer to my value than to that of Morley. His was a fine piece of work carefully done.

Then came the offer here. I first learned, through Professor Parr and Professor Bartow, that the University of Illinois was looking for a head of the chemistry department. They asked me at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans to consult with them about a suitable candidate. I, of course, consented and talked with them for some little time. As I talked I saw the possibilities which lay before the head at Illinois and I finally asked if they would consider me. (I learned afterwards that they had undertaken the conversation with the intention of offering me the headship). Then President James asked me to come here and look over the field. I did so. One of the questions which President James asked me was, "Is it possible to build a strong graduate department of chemistry here in the Middle West?" I must admit that I was just a little in doubt, but I did think it was worth trying.

The work here has succeeded beyond my hope and expectation. I wish to repeat what has already been said with regard to the foundation laid here by Professor Arthur W. Palmer, that, to my mind, gives him perhaps more right than me to the honor of having the chemistry building bear his name. Not only that, I had two magnificent colleagues, Professor Parr and Professor Bartow, who stood by me through the years that followed (Professor Parr until the end of my term) and were always with me helping in the work of the department. In addition, the department was so well organized and we had such able men as the heads of the divisions that I could delegate to them a large part of the work being done. The growth of the department depends upon this cooperation between a group of men who worked together and succeeded.

Again, let me thank my colleagues and the board of trustees of the University of Illinois for the high honor which has been given me.

OBITUARY

JOSEPH GRINNELL

FORTUNATELY the editor of SCIENCE requests of me an "obituary notice" of Joseph Grinnell. This frees me from any attempt at a biography, even a sketchy one, of the man.

First, then, as to the great loss to family, friends, the University of California in general and its Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in particular, and to the realm of knowledge to which he devoted his life—the loss to all these is heavy indeed, the more because of its untimeliness. At the very climax of his usefulness general and scientific, one's first impulsion is toward the old fatuous query: "Why? But the second, more deliberate impulsion is toward consideration of the man—his personality and achievements—with little regard for the number of years involved.

Born (February 27, 1877) on the fringe of civilization, of parents both naturalists by innate qualities, what cultural influences would be likely to thwart his naturalistic tendencies?

The father, Dr. Fordyce Grinnell, was a government physician to the plains Indians at Fort Sill in the then Indian Territory. The family moved to Pasadena when the boy was seven years old. Here the home became famous as "The Bird's Retreat."

With maturing years in such a home, these following upon the first years as a frontiersboy with Indian children as playmates, little wonder what happened later.

Graduation from the Pasadena High School, A.B. from the Throop Polytechnic Institute (now the California Institute of Technology) and A.M. and Ph.D. from Stanford were unquestionably important happenings. But his "field work," covering so large a portion of Western North America, from far into Alaska to well into Lower California, judged by the time spent at it, by his publications and by the part it played in his classroom teaching and his guidance of graduate students would, I am sure, warrant a judgment about him similar to that passed by Darwin on what the voyage of the *Beagle* did for him: "The first real training or education of my mind."

Grinnell never sacrificed the scientific study of nature to popular or practical or literary interests. This is shown by the 550 or more published works, several of them sizable books sufficiently technical to satisfy any reasonable demand in this direction; and by the men and women who earned advanced degrees by more or less of their work with him and who now are widely scattered over North America in responsible positions of research, administration, teaching in institutions of learning or in government service. But not for a moment should his interest and efforts in general education and the great matter of conservation be forgotten. Some specific information about these interests are shown by his class work as a university teacher, his leadership in the Cooper Ornithological Club and his editorship of its journal, *The Condor*.

More specific information about his achievements comes from a look at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. A half hour's inspection of it by anybody at

home in such a place is enough to bring expressions like: What an admirable example of an institution with a plan in process of execution! And the plan—what is it?

Though never coached or even authorized by Grinnell to answer the question, I venture an answer that I think would please him and I hope would be agreed to by all closely connected with the institution. The museum is an important adjunct to an endlessly intensive study of the land vertebrates of a limited geographic region designatable as the Western Slope of North America.

The function of the museum is to serve as a sort of post-mortem laboratory and conservatory for studying such aspects of the creatures as can not possibly be studied while they are alive. Grinnell always subordinated work indoors on dead animals to work out of doors on living ones.

Fortunate indeed for the scholar, no matter what his realm, of whom it may be so honestly said at the end of his life, as of Joseph Grinnell, Well done, good and faithful servant! Long and in manifold ways may your labors go on bearing fruit in their own right and by the labor of others.

WM. E. RITTER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
JULY 4, 1939.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. EDMUND HELLER, the explorer, since 1935 director of the Fleishhacker Zoological Park in San Francisco, previously director of the Milwaukee Zoological Gardens, died on July 18. He was sixty-four years old.

DR. JOHN MELLANBY, Waynflete professor of physiology at the University of Oxford, died on July 15 at the age of sixty-one years.

DR. HEINRICH POLL, for many years director of the Anatomical Institute in Hamburg, died on June 12 in Lund, Sweden.

EIGHT new dormitories, recently erected at the University of Wisconsin, have been named after former distinguished members of the faculty and scholars who have been connected with the university. These include: Chamberlin House, named after Thomas C. Chamberlin, who was president of the university from 1887 to 1892, when he became head of the department of geology in the then newly established University of Chicago; the Refectory has been named Van Hise Hall, after Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, a graduate of the university, from 1886 to 1903 professor in the department of geology and from 1903 until his death in 1918 president of the university.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TRANSFER OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES

EFFECTIVE as of July 1, the Bureau of Fisheries became a bureau in the Department of the Interior. For the present, its Washington offices will remain in the Department of Commerce Building.

Secretary Ickes has, for several years, advocated the benefits of grouping conservation activities in the Department of the Interior, and the shift of the Bureau of Fisheries in accordance with the President's reorganization plan fulfils that policy. The bulletin issued by the bureau points out that there is every reason to believe that the bureau will continue to grow and render greater service to the public and that there is no reason to believe that the change will in any way affect the status of employees of the bureau. It will involve changes in procedure to a limited extent, and copies of all regulations or administrative orders concerning employees will be brought to their attention from time to time as occasion requires.

The Bureau of Fisheries, originally an independent commission, was established pursuant to a joint resolution of Congress approved on February 9, 1871. Until July 1, 1903, it retained its independent status and was known as The United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

Upon organization of the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903, it became a bureau in that department, and, in 1913, when separate Departments of Commerce and Labor were established, it became a bureau in the Department of Commerce. The transfer of the Bureau of Fisheries to the Department of the Interior marks an additional step in the evolution of the bureau.

REORGANIZATION OF THE WORK IN ZOOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

A REORGANIZATION and expansion of the work in zoology at Cornell University became effective on July 1. The changes brought about have been contemplated for a number of years, but have been precipitated by the closing, on June 30, 1938, of the Ithaca Division of the Cornell University Medical College. Most of the former members of that division are included in the new department of zoology. As a result of various shifts of personnel and interests over the past three decades, the work in vertebrate zoology and ornithology had become attached to the department of entomology. These fields have now been transferred to the new department of zoology.

As a result of these changes, the staff of that de-