

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-