

OBITUARY

KARL M. WIEGAND

DR. KARL M. WIEGAND, for many years head of the department of botany at Cornell University and professor emeritus of botany since August, 1941, died at Ithaca, N. Y., on Thursday, April 12. Burial was at Truxton, New York. He is survived by his wife and one daughter.

Professor Wiegand was born in the village of Truxton, N. Y., on June 2, 1873. This was his home until he entered Cornell University. Influenced no doubt by his father, who was a pharmacist of the scholarly type, he developed an interest in his natural surroundings. As a boy of fifteen, by working on difficult plant groups, he was already demonstrating interest and ability in problems in taxonomy. In an Atlas of Cortland County owned by his family appear notations of his early searches and expeditions to the various valleys, hills and swamps of that beautiful region.

Truxton being a small village and only about 30 miles from Ithaca by a branch railroad, he went to Ithaca High School to prepare himself for entrance to Cornell, with the intention of specializing in pharmacy. Just previous to his entrance into the university the course in pharmacy was abolished. Nevertheless, he entered Cornell and here began his formal education in botany. This he selected as his major subject, and in accordance with the requirements for graduation submitted a thesis. The subject of this thesis was seed anatomy, and the quality of the investigation was of such a character that it gained for him election to Sigma Xi. He graduated from Cornell with the B.S. degree in 1894.

Following his graduation he became assistant in the department of botany and began graduate studies. His early interests were diverse and included physiology, anatomy and morphology, but he continued his special interest in taxonomy. Despite his early work in taxonomy and his special interest in this field, his thesis was concerned with frost injury of buds and his purpose at this time was to specialize in plant physiology. The Ph.D. degree was granted to him in 1898 and the following year he was promoted to the rank of instructor. It was not until 1900 in the "Announcement of Courses" that his name appears associated with instruction in taxonomy.

In 1907 Dr. Wiegand accepted a position at Wellesley College as associate professor of botany. Here he taught elementary botany and taxonomy until 1913 and during this period made taxonomy his major field of work.

Largely through the efforts of Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, then dean of the College of Agriculture at

Cornell, a new Department of Botany was organized in the College of Agriculture in 1913. Dr. Wiegand was made head of this new department, which within a few years absorbed the Department of Botany of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For a period of twenty-eight years, until his retirement in August, 1941, he wisely guided the department and was largely responsible for bringing the department to its high reputation. At Cornell he was free to follow his chosen field and confined his research and teaching to taxonomy. Despite the pressure of administrative duties he found time to develop from very little a herbarium of about 250,000 specimens. This alone would have been an achievement, but in addition he gave liberally of his time to the identification of plants for botanists from all parts of the country. His enthusiasm for the subject of taxonomy was contagious. Countless students were inspired by him to become interested in plants and to appreciate the value of taxonomic studies in their practical and cultural aspects. When it was realized a little over a year ago that Dr. Wiegand was to retire, his courses in taxonomy became filled to capacity. These students wanted to be taught by the master.

His desire to do research was manifest early in life and continued to the end. Despite the multitude of other duties associated with his position he found time for research. He published more than one hundred papers. His intensive field studies of the plants of the Cayuga Lake region resulted ultimately in the publication of the "Cayuga Lake Flora," prepared in association with Dr. A. J. Eames. The excellence of this work has resulted in the general acceptance of this publication as the model of its kind. He made a notable contribution to horticulture by preparing for Bailey's Standard Cyclopedia the extensive and technical "Synopsis of the Vegetable Kingdom" and by his assistance in the preparation of the Introductory Key. He was recognized as one of the leading taxonomists of the world.

Dr. Wiegand was vice-president of Section G of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1933 and in 1939 he was president of the Botanical Society of America. For a period of eleven years following the World War, he directed the Summer School in Biology at Cornell, which attracted many students.

Dr. Wiegand was a very modest man who loved his fellow men. He was unselfish to a degree seldom found in men. He viewed his research problems objectively and was always ready to forsake his own views when convinced of the validity of concepts proposed by others. His quiet cheerfulness, his high ideals and his thoughtful consideration of others

endeared him to his students, to his colleagues and to all who were associated with him.

LEWIS KNUDSON

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

VERNON BAILEY, from 1887 until his retirement in 1933 chief field naturalist of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on April 20 in his seventy-eighth year.

DR. EDWARD ROYAL WARREN, from 1909 to 1918 director of the Museum of Colorado College, died on April 20, at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. F. M. PAGAN, chairman of the department of biology of the University of Puerto Rico, who had been serving as exchange professor of botany at Duke University, died on April 15.

DR. GUSTAVE WHYTE THOMPSON, chief chemist and director of the National Lead Company, retired, died, as the result of an automobile accident, on April 22. He was seventy-six years old.

THE death on March 13, at the age of sixty-five years, is announced of Captain Guy Dollman, assistant keeper of zoology in the British Museum (Natural History).

A SERIES of lectures has been established at Columbia University as a memorial to Dr. Frederick J. E. Woodbridge, Johnsonian professor of philosophy, from 1912 to 1929 dean of the Graduate Faculties, who died on June 1, 1940. Professor Wilmon H. Sheldon, of the department of philosophy of Yale University, has been appointed the first lecturer.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PROTECTION AGAINST FOREST FIRES

W. S. ROSENCRANS, of Los Angeles, president of the American Forestry Association, has submitted to President Roosevelt a resolution passed by the board of directors of the association at a meeting recently held in Washington.

The resolution calls upon all conservation agencies and forest users—federal, state and private—to “dedicate their undivided efforts to the doing of those things that are clearly of first importance within their field in promoting the common cause of victory.” In the forest field the association holds that three lines of action now claim and should have undisputed priority. They are:

Protection of forest and related resources and of war industries, including power, water and transportation lines essential to their operation, against the impending danger of forest fires. This is an immediately critical threat to our war efforts: first, because in addition to normal forest fire hazards, sabotage by our enemies of our production of wood, our supply lines, and operation of war industries through widespread setting of forest fires by aerial bombing and ground incendiarism is not only possible but probable this summer; and, second, because adequate preparedness against such a contingency is not now assured. The danger is particularly acute on the Pacific Coast where vital war industries are concentrated and from which our prosecution of the war in the Pacific is based.

Maintenance of continuous production of wood and other forest products essential to the prosecution of the war. Most of the war industries, the training of our armed forces and the shipment of supplies and equipment to the fighting fronts of the United Nations is dependent in large part upon an uninterrupted production and delivery of wood in raw and fabricated forms.

Accelerated research in the use and production of cel-

lulose, plywood, lumber and other forest products related to war needs. Such research will not only promote the conservation of our forest resources but it will strengthen and speed our war effort by providing improved equipment and by helping to overcome shortages in other materials that are now or may in the future impede war action.

“We believe,” the resolution concludes, “that the accomplishment of these objectives is vital to the winning of the war and that they should have the united and supreme effort of all individuals and groups in the forest field. To this end we urge that highly controversial issues, such as federal regulation of privately owned timberlands, be set aside until the war is won, without prejudice as to their merit or desirability when normal conditions of American life are reestablished.”

EXPEDITION OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The New York Times has received word from Caripito, Venezuela, to the effect that Dr. William Beebe's forty-second expedition was ready on March 23 to start explorations into the dense Venezuelan jungle near the settlement.

The expedition, which is being conducted under the auspices of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society, has headquarters on the edge of the jungle in the modern camp of the Standard Oil Company of Venezuela. Electricity, baths, good food, talking pictures, swimming pool and golf course and a well-equipped laboratory are at the disposal of the unit, all less than twenty minutes away from the wilderness that Mr. Beebe has studied in his eight years in British Guiana.

The expedition has made preparatory incursions