

## OBITUARY

**ALBRO D. MORRILL**  
1854-1943

ALBRO D. MORRILL, emeritus professor of biology in Hamilton College, died on June 8, 1943, following an attack of apoplexy. He was born in Northfield, N. H., on August 29, 1854. As a boy, he spent much time working in his father's nursery. It was here, while budding fruit trees, that he first became interested in biology.

Professor Morrill received his bachelor of science degree from Dartmouth College in 1876 and his master of science degree from Dartmouth three years later. Belmont College gave him an honorary master of arts degree in 1886, and in 1926 he was honored with a doctor of science degree by Colgate University.

He began his teaching career in 1878 as science teacher in an academy at Lewiston, Pa. In 1883 he accepted a professorship at Belmont College and in 1888 he went to Ohio University as professor of geology and biology. He came to Hamilton College in 1892 as professor of chemistry and biology, but from 1896 until his retirement in 1928 he devoted himself to biology.

Professor Morrill's greatest professional achievement was the creation and development of the biology department at Hamilton. During the early days of his professorship at Hamilton emphasis was on classical study, yet in his quiet, independent and creative way he got a department of biology going. His first laboratory was in an old dormitory where there was not even running water. Yet, on his retirement in 1928, after thirty-seven years on the Hamilton College faculty, he turned over to his successors one of the best college biological laboratories in the country, an unusually good natural history museum and an excellent library.

At the time of his retirement the hundreds of students who had majored in biology under his instruction established a fund in the interest of an A. D. Morrill Biological Library to which Professor Morrill added his personal collection.

Professor Morrill always retained one characteristic of his New England ancestry: he was sparing in his use of words, yet he was a gifted teacher. He stimulated students to find out things for themselves. In spite of his reserved manner he acquired the true affection of his students, and one of his greatest satisfactions was the feeling that he had contributed to the world of science through the successes of the men who had been students of his during their college years.

He was one of the pioneer research workers in the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., and at the laboratories of the U. S. Bureau of Fish-

eries at Beaufort, N. C. At the age of fifty, under advice from his physician, he broke with the habit of years, that of spending nine months in his college laboratory and then three at Woods Hole. In the summer of 1904 he accepted the opportunity to join a picked group to be trained by the Bureau of University Travel as leaders of future parties of European travelers. For the next ten years he spent his summers in this work.

Professor Morrill was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Society of Naturalists, the American Society of Zoologists, the Boston Society of Natural History and the College Faculty Club. He was associated with the Presbyterian church of Clinton, where he taught a Sunday-school class for many years.

On December 23, 1879, he married Miss Lena E. Carver, of Binghamton, N. Y., who died in 1934. His sister, Catharine Morrill, who has made her home with him, survives.

WALTER N. HESS

**ELIZABETH TOWAR PLATT**

ELIZABETH TOWAR PLATT, librarian of the American Geographical Society, bibliographer, informed geographical student, respected editor, died in New York City on May 22 in her forty-fourth year. Although her professional life was comparatively brief, her contributions to geography were many and, fortunately, of an enduring character.

Elizabeth Platt was born on February 25, 1900, into a family prominent in the anthracite coal industry in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Trained as a librarian at Columbia University, her appointment to the staff of the American Geographical Society in 1920 gave definition to her career. Early sensing the importance of securing a broad geographical background, she supplemented her formal library training with studies in geology and geography at Columbia, leading to the bachelor's degree in 1930 and the master's degree two years later. Thus a fortunate combination of native abilities and training, strengthened by practical experience, bore fruit in the adaptation of library methods to the requirements of geographical research. Advanced to the position of assistant librarian in 1925, Miss Platt gradually assumed administrative charge, under the general direction of Dr. John K. Wright, and became largely responsible for book selections and cataloguing. Her promotion in 1937 to the position of librarian was a fitting sequel to these events.