

FRANK SLATER DAGGETT

UNDER the directorship of Frank S. Daggett, the Museum of History, Science and Art of Los Angeles, has come to exert an important influence in science and education in Southern California. The collections representing the history of California and the southwest, and especially the splendid representation of the extinct life of California secured from the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea, have made the institution the object of frequent visits by large numbers of residents of California and by travellers from the east. The rapid development of the museum, the excellent organization of its collections, and the maintenance of a high standard of efficiency throughout the institution were in a very large measure due to the untiring effort of Mr. Daggett. Interesting and valuable exhibits representing living birds, mammals, and molluscs of Southern California were assembled under Mr. Daggett's direction, but by far the most important collection was that representing the extinct fauna secured in the extraordinary asphalt deposits at Rancho La Brea on the western border of the city.

Born at Norwalk, Ohio, in January 30, 1855, Mr. Daggett was for the greater part of his life engaged in commercial pursuits. He was a successful grain merchant at Duluth, Minnesota, from 1885 to 1894, and was a member of the Board of Trade of Chicago from 1904 to 1911. He was always deeply interested in natural history and from his early boyhood was engaged in the study of insects and birds.

His collection of Coleoptera numbered two thousand species and his bird collections contained over eight thousand specimens. Although he published little of a technical nature his interest in natural history subjects was a continued inspiration to many who were professionally engaged in scientific pursuits, and his influence in the advance of natural history of the Pacific Coast has been a factor of much importance.

Mr. Daggett became the director of the Museum of History, Science and Art in 1911. At the time of his assuming the office, the

building was finished, but contained no exhibits and no staff appointments had been made. Among the first tasks taken up was the securing of privileges for collecting in the Pleistocene deposits at Rancho La Brea. The excavations were carried on with the most extreme care and with all advice that could be obtained from those especially interested in the scientific study of the deposits. With the utmost precautions the great series of specimens unearthed was cleaned, prepared for study, and marked as to location in the beds. At no stage in the handling of this great collection was anything omitted which might have helped to make the material more useful to the student of future years. Along with its many other contributions to science the Rancho La Brea collection of the Museum of History, Science and Art must always remain as a monument to the scientific interest and administrative skill of Mr. Daggett.

It was the writer's privilege to make the acquaintance of Mr. Daggett at the time of his first interest in the deposits at Rancho La Brea, and to cooperate with him through the whole work of the excavation and preparation of these collections. In these years of close cooperation and friendship he proved himself a man of the highest ideals and finest purposes in development of all that is most fundamental and significant in the phases of natural science with which he came in contact. Although Mr. Daggett's name will not be known in future years by length of publication lists or by species described, there must be given to him a full measure for very significant constructive work done with much interest, with keen insight, and with an effectiveness which is rarely equalled.

JOHN C. MERRIAM

JOHN LOSSEN PRICER

JOHN LOSSEN PRICER,¹ of the Illinois State Normal University at Normal, Illinois, died suddenly of heart trouble on August 19, 1920. By his death the scientific interests of Illinois and other mid-western states have suffered a

¹ Born January 10, 1871. A.B. and A.M., University of Illinois, 1907.