

into the wild country in India, bringing back rare birds and animals. As he grew older, his horizons widened, and he was soon traveling into the most remote parts of Asia, Africa and Australia, selling his finds to zoos all over the world. Before the world war he established an animal farm near Sydney, Australia, which he used as his headquarters and clearing house. In 1923 he moved his headquarters to New York.

His quest for the rare and the difficult took him to almost every country in the world. He was one of the few collectors who obtained and cared for his specimens with his own hands. He consequently had remarkable success in securing the most unusual specimens and in delivering them to buyers in excellent condition. A complete enumeration of his almost superhuman achievements is impossible. Once, in Sierra Leone, an infant chimpanzee, about to die, was saved by persuading a native mother to nurse it for several weeks. On his first visit to New York in 1920, he brought a record-breaking shipment of camels and other animals, and in that same year delivered to the New York Zoological Park the first blue-birds of Paradise ever seen here. He also brought over the lungfish and the first Australian koala to be seen in this country.

On July 13, 1922, he delivered to the New York Zoo the first and only duckbill platypus ever held in captivity. The platypus lived only 49 days in New York, but the method used to transport the animal to this country still provides anecdotal material among animal collectors. For half a century the platypus, which thrived in a certain kind of watery habitat, had resisted all attempts to transplant it from Australia. After working five years on a scheme to duplicate the conditions under which the animal lives, Mr. Joseph devised the "platypusary"—a cage containing a system of water tanks through which the animal swam to a dry burrow. As the platypus ascended from the water into the sand it passed through a series of rubber gaskets which squeezed the surplus water off its body.

Mr. Joseph was so reticent and shy of publicity that much of the story of his life was never told. On several occasions, when besieged by newspaper men or by publishers desiring him to recount his adventures in book form, he refused; and it was to only a few intimate friends that he would occasionally describe his experiences in the bush.

His physical appearance was arresting. A huge figure of a man, more than six feet tall and weighing nearly 300 pounds in his prime, he was noted for his fearlessness, and his arms and hands were covered with scars where carnivores, parrots and big birds had ripped into his flesh. One arm was marked by a long scar where a black panther had slashed him. On five different occasions he had been forced to sew himself up when wounded by animals far from civilization. His face bore scars as the result of the "affectionate"

reactions of a large male chimpanzee which he had not seen for several years.

Ellis Joseph was a true zoologist, ecologist and comparative psychologist. His knowledge concerning the morphology and behavior of various birds and mammals was unexcelled. He was particularly eager to cooperate with scientists throughout the country, and would often go out of his way to supply a laboratory with desired research animals. Once, rather than sell the body of a young gorilla for less than it was worth, he donated the animal for study to a well-known comparative anatomist. He was an honorary life member of the American Museum of Natural History and of the Philadelphia Zoological Society.

Mr. Joseph had the universal respect of all those who knew him. His reputation was impeccable; his word was his bond. He was exceedingly generous and a most gracious host. He sought perfection, and had a singular love for the unusual and the esoteric; these were reflected in everything that he had and did.

Ellis Stanley Joseph is dead. He has joined Carl Akeley and Martin Johnson, and has completed the triumvirate. But his spirit lives on in the African bush, Australian plain, Tibetan highland and Malayan jungle, as well as in the memories of those who knew and loved him.

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### RECENT DEATHS

DR. E. W. RETTGER, professor of applied mechanics at Cornell University, died on October 9 at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. RAEMER REX RENSHAW, professor of organic chemistry at New York University, was killed on September 23 by a fall from the window of his apartment. His wife was killed at the same time in the same manner. Dr. Renshaw had been on leave, but was expected to resume his work at the university on September 28. He was fifty-eight years old.

THE death is reported in *Nature* of Sir Philip Dawson, a distinguished electrical engineer, who received the George Stephenson Gold Medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers and also the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts, on September 24 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. F. J. KARL SUDHOFF, professor of the history of medicine at the University of Leipzig and founder of the German Society for the History of Medicine, died on October 14. He was eighty-four years old.

THE death on June 30 at the age of seventy-five years is reported of Dr. Waichiro Okada, honorary professor of otorhinolaryngology at the Tokyo Imperial University and president of the Showa Medical College, which he founded.