

the academy should emphasize an integrated, synthetic approach to every problem, pressing into service the contributions of various basic social sciences such as human geography, anthropology, psychology, econom-

ics, political science, philosophy and sociology. The bringing into being of a national academy so constituted may well become a crowning achievement of the Indian Science Congress.

OBITUARY

JOHN OTTERBEIN SNYDER

DR. JOHN OTTERBEIN SNYDER, professor of zoology, emeritus, at Stanford University, died in Palo Alto, California, on August 20, 1943. Professor Snyder was born in Butler, Indiana, on August 14, 1867. He is survived by his wife, the former Frances Hamilton, and two children, Corporal Cedric O. Snyder, U. S. Medical Corps, and Evelyn Hamilton Snyder, of Palo Alto.

Professor Snyder's boyhood was spent in the town of his birth, where he received his early education. In 1890 he went to Indiana University. There, as a freshman, he came under the stimulating influence of the late Dr. David Starr Jordan, became interested in the study of fishes and followed Dr. Jordan to Stanford in 1892. From that time until his death he was closely associated with the Stanford community, first as student, later as teacher, administrator and citizen. In each role he played a leading part.

From the year before his retirement from the university (1931) to 1937 Professor Snyder was director of the Bureau of Fish Conservation of the California Division of Fish and Game. His understanding of the fundamental biology involved and his genius for organization resulted in a complete revision of the work of that bureau along scientific lines. On retirement from the service of the state, he left the administration of the bureau in the hands of a former graduate student whom he had selected and trained especially for that work.

Professor Snyder's more serious research interests were broadly in the field of ichthyology; he was the author of many papers dealing with systematic ichthyology, with the distribution and life histories of freshwater fishes and with fisheries biology. In his systematic work he was especially interested in the finer differences shown by closely related forms, and in some of his earlier papers he developed methods for studying series of specimens that foreshadowed the present statistical approach to similar problems. His studies of the salmon of California were of special importance in providing a scientific background for his conservation work with the California Division of Fish and Game.

As a young man Professor Snyder took part, as ichthyologist, in a number of important scientific expeditions. He accompanied Dr. Jordan on trips to

Mexico, Hawaii and Japan, and served as naturalist on the U. S. Fish Commission research vessel *Albatross* at various times between 1902 and 1906. Until 1916, he was at frequent intervals associated as assistant with the Fish Commission and with the succeeding Bureau of Fisheries. In 1914 and 1915 he served as ichthyologist in the U. S. National Museum and in 1925 was appointed director of the Marine Biological Laboratory of the Bureau of Fisheries at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He was an active member of the California Academy of Sciences and was corresponding secretary for a number of years beginning in 1920. Professor Snyder was always keenly interested in the general welfare of the communities in which he lived. At Stanford University he served actively on various academic committees. He was a member of the city council of Palo Alto from 1917 to 1922. During World War I he quietly rendered services to the nation that were known only to a limited number of close associates.

As a youth, J. O. Snyder was widely interested in nature—in the geology and biology of his native Indiana. This interest sharpened his naturally keen powers of observation, and he developed into a superb field naturalist. This interest in the things of outdoors he retained throughout life. During the years of his teaching at Stanford his courses in ornithology, always popular with students, provided for many of them a source of pleasure that carried over into their lives long after their leaving the university.

His understanding of, and helpful interest in, the younger men and women who came under his influence were conspicuous traits of his character and inspired many of his students to an abiding interest in biology. It was characteristic of these interests that he regularly organized field expeditions, many of which lasted for several months, and on which he took one or more younger men. His methods in the field were systematic, thorough and ingenious, and his field notes were models of accurate observation and careful recording. The training he gave on those trips, chiefly by example, was incomparable. And training apart, the delightful comradeship and the refreshment of those days in the open with "J. O." has remained a high light in the lives of many of the students who were privileged to experience them.

WILLIS H. RICH

STANFORD UNIVERSITY