questions about the organization and support of science. One suggestion arises directly from the fact that, as scientists, we have no over-all organization to bring our views on such questions to a focus or to represent our interest in public matters, or to permit our influence to be brought to bear upon problems which affect the scientist. Perhaps we should have a guild or a federation of scientific societies which could concern itself with such questions.

As scientists, we might also encourage and cooperate with those statesmen who have seen the need and have begun to study the problem of the public support of science. Too frequently we have remained aloof or have opposed even the public discussion of the problem. Apparently we have still to learn that there is a politics concerned with policy, and that only through such a political channel can science come to occupy its rightful and necessary place in the state.

OBITUARY

HERBERT EUGENE WALTER

PROFESSOR WALTER died at his home in Providence, Rhode Island, on October first, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. He was born on a farm in Burke, Vermont, on April 19, 1867. Living as a schoolboy in the neighboring village of Lyndon Center and marrying Alice Hall of Lyndon in 1893, he always remained a staunch Vermonter, returning there for frequent summer visits. Mrs. Walter, who is an ardent ornithologist, survives him. Over the course of many years their keen mutual interest in birds served them as a semiprofessional pastime, resulting in the collection of many records and in substantially furthering the cause of wildlife conservation.

Walter graduated from Bates College in 1892, and in 1939 he received the honorary degree of Sc.D. from his *alma mater*. A similar honor, also the Sc.D. degree, was conferred on him by Middlebury College in 1934.

His graduate work began at Brown University in 1892–93 under the tutelage of H. C. Bumpus, at that time professor of comparative anatomy. Their early association, already begun during several summers at Woods Hole, led him to Brown and proved to be the beginning of a lifelong friendship. The next year was spent in Germany, following the habit that then prevailed among young aspirants to a zoological career. He was very fortunate to proceed to Freiburg, where the quartet of Heeren Professoren at the Anatomisches Institut included the justly celebrated Weismann and Wiedersheim.

Walter was a delightful writer, and his Germanic experiences at Freiburg are interestingly set forth in a brochure entitled "One Innocent Abroad," published only very recently (1943) and circulated among a wide circle of his friends.

On his return from Europe he took a position as teacher of biology in the North Division High School in Chicago, where the writer and his boyhood friend, A. L. Melander, had the great good fortune to receive their first instruction in the mysteries of biological science at his hands. Then, as later, Walter was a marvelously fine and enthusiastic teacher whose equal I have seldom known. He took a great interest in secondary education during this period of ten years, but wanted to return east and complete the graduate study he had begun in Germany.

The two following years were spent at Harvard University, where he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1906. At this time he relinquished temporarily his primary interest in vertebrate zoology and presented a doctoral dissertation dealing with the behavior of planarians, a study sponsored by Professor G. H. Parker. W. E. Castle, another member of the Harvard biological faculty, was already at work in the newly born science of genetics and Walter's interest in this phase of biology was aroused, later to be further stimulated by association with C. B. Davenport, another pioneer geneticist.

Following the interlude at Harvard, Walter joined the faculty of Brown University, of which he remained a member for thirty-one years, first as assistant professor, then as associate professor and finally for fifteen years as professor of biology. He retired from active teaching in 1937.

Concurrently with his activities at Brown, from 1906–1927 Walter spent a considerable part of each summer at the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory, where he conducted a class in field zoology. The daily meetings of this class, in which the writer had the opportunity to take part on several occasions, were a round of continued activity on the part of all participants. There were frequent trips to selected marine, fresh-water or terrestrial habitats, where the fauna suffered an inquisition that offered an opportunity to acquaint the members of the class with a most varied list of animals, numerous plants, and furnished the cue to present many biological principles in vivid form. At the end of each session a daily report was prepared on a simple mimeograph held in readiness at the laboratory. These reports, often embellished with appropriate diagrams, Walter prepared, printed and distributed with the precision and well-ordered haste usually associated with the afternoon edition of a metropolitan daily. This class is selected as an example of the unusual facility with

which he was able to inject enthusiasm as well as to implant information in the minds of the many students who came under his care.

During these summer sessions at Cold Spring Harbor Walter was closely associated with C. B. Davenport, the director of the laboratory, and his continued interest in genetics was fostered by this relationship. From 1917–1927 Walter served as assistant director.

His college lectures were always entertainingly presented, aided by his ability to draw with notable skill on the blackboard. His diagrams, together with gadgets that he devised and perfected, aided particularly in demonstrating the mechanism of inheritance. His greatest interest was in the comparative anatomy of the vertebrates, and this occupied a major part of the time he devoted to teaching.

Walter published a number of books and papers on various zoological subjects, but his most important contribution is embodied in two of the books. The first of these, "Genetics," was published originally in 1913, revised in 1920, and finally rewritten in 1930. His versatility in presenting difficult matter for student consumption is best illustrated in this text. The other, "Biology of the Vertebrates," dealing with his favorite group of animals, diverges considerably from the usual text-book style of presentation, but its interest and instructional value are greatly enhanced thereby. This book appeared first in 1927 and after a dozen reprintings was issued in revised form in 1939. Only a week before his death he had cheerfully planned a further revision requested by the publishers.

Dr. Walter will always be remembered with affection by those who knew him as a beloved and inspiring teacher. This was apparent even to those who first crossed his path after their youthfully receptive minds were nearing the all too comfortable point of satiety. His cheery presence never failed to enliven meetings with his colleagues or students, as well as gatherings untinged by professionalism. His scholarly accomplishments and unselfish interest in his chosen field of teaching were combined to produce a most stimulating personality.

CHARLES T. BRUES

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, since 1942 curator emeritus of birds of the American Museum of Natural History, died on November 15 at the age of eighty-one years.

DR. ERNST THELIN, head of the department of psychology at Syracuse University, died on November 9 at the age of fifty-seven years.

DR. EDITH STEVENS, since 1928 a member of the department of biology at the Farmville, Virginia, State Teachers College, and associate professor since 1929, died on October 31, as a result of burns sustained in the laboratory.

DR. FRANCIS WILLIAM ASTON, fellow of the Royal Society and fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, died on November 20 at the age of sixty-eight years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

FELLOWSHIPS FOR EUROPEAN STUDENTS

THE Board of Governors of the International House voted at its last meeting to establish a limited number of fellowships for European students. These fellowships are being established to provide for scholars of exceptional ability an opportunity to resume their study and research, interrupted by the war. The board feels that such fellowships might provide mutual advantages to American universities and to the scholars themselves, during their stay in this country and upon their return to their homes.

The students selected must be graduate students with outstanding academic records, with a thorough knowledge of English and in good health. Students will not be limited to any specific fields of study. Each fellowship will provide a maximum of $1,300 with $300 of this set-aside for the payment of room rent at International House in which the student selected will reside. Cash payments of $83.33 a month during a calendar year will be paid to the student to provide for his meals and expenses other than tuition. The University of Chicago, Northwestern University and the Illinois Institute of Technology will award tuition scholarships to the students selected. It is the hope of International House that transportation will be provided by the governments of the students selected or by other agencies, as no funds are provided by the International House for travel.

The fellowships are open to any student from Europe. The student's academic qualifications must be accepted through the regular channels for admission by one of the cooperating schools before he is eligible to receive a fellowship. These schools and the International House are anxious to see the best possible scholars selected for this project, as the success of the plan will depend upon the standards of selection established.

Recommendations may be sent to Robert M. Strozier, Associate Director, International House, Chicago 37, Illinois.