

tionally learned professions of law, medicine, and the ministry. In a confused and shaken world, the national defense also must absorb a larger fraction of the country's brains than were concentrated in the military profession during the 1920's and 1930's.

For these reasons America must no longer be prodigal of the capacities of her more promising youth.

CONCLUSION

We have seen that the AGCT measures a wide range of inequalities in adult capacity. With this yardstick, data have been collected from a massive population for a practical military purpose. These data, when brought into relation with facts about schooling and civilian occupation, reveal a vast pool of talent now only partly drawn upon. Large numbers of men have been identified whose levels of accomplishment, in both education and vocation, have fallen short of their potentialities.

These facts are a challenge to conserve the national heritage. This consists not only of fertile soil, mineral wealth, oil, water power, forests, and wildlife, but also of that most precious of resources, the intellectual capacities of our young people. Does it not follow that the number of scholarships available to really superior applicants for higher education should

be greatly increased? Gates of opportunity in colleges, technical institutions, and graduate schools should be opened more widely or—wherever such facilities are overcrowded—more discriminatingly. To select the most promising from among multitudes is no longer a baffling task. It has been done. It can be done widely.

Experience of the military services during mobilization and war dictates an expansion of civilian facilities for interviewing, testing, record keeping, and counseling of young men and women. Staffs of qualified specialists such as those at a few universities now maintain should be available in every educational institution to identify the most promising students and to facilitate their advancement. Incentives must be widely and plentifully supplied, and new ambitions stirred in any and all who aim at vocational targets less worthy than the best of which they are capable.

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Obituary

Frank Michler Chapman

1864-1945

Frank Michler Chapman was born in Englewood, New Jersey, on 12 June 1864. Following graduation from the Englewood Academy in 1880 he entered the banking profession as an employee of the American Exchange National Bank of New York City, but his growing interest in birds impelled him to resign in 1886 in order to devote his life to ornithology.

He spent a little over a year as an independent student, during part of which he worked as a volunteer assistant to J. A. Allen, then head of the Department of Mammals and Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Shortly afterward, he was offered a permanent position in the Museum and on 1 March 1888 began his official duties as assistant in Dr. Allen's Department. He was made assistant curator the same year, associate curator in 1901, and curator in charge of birds in 1908, and, when the Department of Birds was formally separated in 1920, he was appointed its

first curator, a position which he held until his retirement in 1942.

The intervening years were busy ones. Chapman's principal interests were always concerned with reaching the public, and the exhibition halls of the Museum gave him wide opportunity to achieve this end. He gave his early attention to the possibilities of the "habitat group," and his first experimental display of the bird life of Cobb's Island, Virginia, proved so successful that he devoted a large part of the following decade to the collection of material for a large series of comparable groups of the birds of other parts of North America. These were followed, in turn, by more elaborate exhibitions of birds of the world, the domes of flying birds surmounting certain other halls, and still other displays.

His pen, meanwhile, was likewise busy. In 1899 he obtained the cooperation of the Audubon Society and commenced the publication of the popular magazine, *Bird-Lore*, which he continued to edit through 1934, when it was taken over by the Society. Through

the medium of this journal and the lecture platform he reached a widespread public that found in him an inspiration for its growing interest in birds, and his influence as a great popularizer of bird study was unexcelled.

During this period, also, he published numerous books that proved of great value and interest to the widening circle of bird lovers. Among these may be mentioned his famous *Handbook of birds of Eastern North America* (1895 and subsequent editions); *Bird life* (1897); *Bird studies with a camera* (1900); *Color key to North American birds* (1903); *The warblers of North America* (1907); and *Camps and cruises of an ornithologist* (1908).

In his more technical studies Dr. Chapman was interested particularly in the ornithology of Latin America. He published numerous taxonomic revisions and descriptions of many new forms from this region, but his emphasis was on the larger topics of the origin and distribution of the forms concerned. His monumental books on the distribution of bird life in Colombia (1917) and in Ecuador (1926) developed this thesis extensively and have formed the basis of much subsequent work of similar nature.

In the course of his investigations Dr. Chapman visited many parts of Latin America and gained a firsthand acquaintance with the regions whose avifaunas were the subjects of his study. In later years he took advantage of the facilities offered by the tropical research station on Barro Colorado Island,

Canal Zone, and spent his winters there in field studies of the local birds and other aspects of nature. Two books, *My tropical air castle* (1929) and *Life in an air castle* (1938), are filled with interesting observations made during his sojourns in this retreat. In 1933 appeared his *Autobiography of a bird lover*, in which the many facets of his abundant life are recounted, in interesting detail.

He retired from active museum life on 1 July 1942 and thereafter made his home in Florida, where he was able to continue his outdoor observations throughout the seasons. While in the North on a summer visit in 1945, he became seriously ill and died in St. Luke's Hospital, New York City, on 15 November.

For his scientific attainments, Chapman was given the degree of Doctor of Science from Brown University in 1913. He was affiliated with many scientific societies and was an honorary member of a number of them. He was the recipient of the Brewster, John Burroughs, Elliot, Linnaean Society (New York), and Roosevelt medals.

His career was broad and his attainments noteworthy. No history of the development of bird study in America can ever be complete without a prominent place being accorded to Frank M. Chapman, who, more than any other individual of his time, helped awaken public interest in his feathered friends.

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Association Affairs

The Subsection on Pharmacy of Section N is planning to renew its meetings, beginning with the December meeting of the Association, on a more extended basis than ever before. Assurance has been received that sufficient hotel accommodations will be available to house all out-of-town guests. Because the total program for the Association is very extensive, it is necessary that the program material be submitted by 21 October 1946. Glenn L. Jenkins, secretary of the Subsection, has issued a call for papers in the fields of pharmacy, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, or pharmacognosy, requesting that the titles of papers be submitted at this time and the abstracts and copies of the papers at a later date. The titles should be sent to J. L. Powers, chairman of the Subsection.

Reservations for technical exhibit space at the Annual Science Exhibition, to be held in connection with the 113th AAAS Meeting, Boston, 26-31 December 1946 are now being accepted. Through special arrangements the Association will be able to house both technical and scientific exhibits in the First Corps Cadet Armory which is across the street from the Hotel Statler, headquarters hotel for the meeting (*Science*, 1946, 104, 98). Advance requests for technical exhibit space indicate that manufacturers are arranging to demonstrate their latest products and items which will be available soon.

For details about available space, costs, etc., address: Theo. J. Christensen, Exhibition Director, AAAS, Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, NW, Washington 16, D. C.