

- archeologists O. Voss, P. Kjærsum, and E. Thorvildsen for their collaboration.
3. See the paper by J. Troels-Smith in this issue.
 4. H. Levi and H. Tauber, in W. U. Guyan, Ed., *Das Pfahlbauproblem*. Monografien zur Ur- und

- Frühgeschichte der Schweiz, vol. 11 (Birkhäuser, Basel, 1955).
5. J. Troels-Smith, *ibid.*
6. ———, *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie* (1953).

7. E. C. Anderson, H. Levi, H. Tauber, *Science* 118, 6 (1953).
8. W. F. Libby, *Radiocarbon Dating* (Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1952).

A. C. Kinsey, Zoologist

Alfred C. Kinsey, professor of zoology, Indiana University, and director of the Institute of Sex Research, died 25 August 1956, at the age of 62. Dr. Kinsey was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, 23 June 1894. His father was an engineer and taught at Stevens Institute, where Alfred later spent 2 years before deciding he did not want to be an engineer. He entered Bowdoin College, from which he graduated in 1916. While at Bowdoin and also in earlier years he worked in boys camps during the summer and acquired an interest in the out-of-doors and in living things, an interest that was incorporated into his high-school textbook on biology, published in 1926. After graduation from Bowdoin he entered Harvard Graduate School, where he studied with Merritt L. Fernald, William Morton Wheeler, W. E. Castle, and others. He was granted the Sc.D. degree in 1920. His last year, while he held a Sheldon traveling fellowship, was spent in the field collecting gall wasps. He joined the faculty of Indiana University as assistant professor of zoology in September 1920 and rapidly advanced to the rank of professor in 1929.

During these earlier years at Indiana he continued his studies on gall wasps and published a series of papers on life-histories, taxonomy, geographic distribution, and evolution within the group. The most significant of these publications was on the origin of species in the genus *Cynips*, in which he defined a species as a population with common heredity. He was one of the first to correlate taxonomic studies with genetics.

Although Dr. Kinsey's interest in research was probably paramount, he was also a stimulating and provocative teacher. In advanced courses his method, where possible, was to permit students to reach their own conclusions from a study of specimens set before them or to learn as a result of their own efforts.

Dr. Kinsey's studies on gall wasps are now largely overshadowed by his more recent work on human sexual behavior, which he began in a small way

in 1938 and continued without interruption until his death. His interest in this field was stimulated by students who came to him for counsel and advice on problems which he could not answer for lack of information. As he proceeded to find answers, his interest grew until finally the problems of sex became the dominant interest in his life. His approach from the beginning was that of a scientist seeking the truth, leaving moral and social implications to others. Gradually the immensity of the problems with their many ramifications and the difficulties of approach became apparent. It also became apparent that one man working alone could make but little progress toward solutions. With generous support, however, from Indiana University, the Committee on Problems of Sex of the National Research Council, the Rockefeller Foundation, and later from the income from the sale of his books, Dr. Kinsey was able to build a competent research staff without which progress would have been seriously handicapped.

From 1938 to 1947 Dr. Kinsey's researches on human sexual behavior were carried on within the department of zoology, but in 1947, for purposes of convenience and efficiency, the Institute for Sex Research was incorporated, and Dr. Kinsey was relieved of all teaching duties. He continued, however, to hold his professorship in the department.

Because of the scarcity of information, the greatest need at the beginning and throughout the study has been for more data, the facts of human sexual behavior. For collecting information, a personal-interview technique was developed, and the answers were recorded in code which could be read only by the few concerned with the research. To date 18,500 individual case-histories of men and women in various walks of life and from diverse regions of the United States have been recorded. Based on the information thus gained, two volumes, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, have been published, and

others, including volumes on abortion, sex laws, and sex offenders and concepts of normality, are on the way or planned.

All studies, scientific or otherwise, in the field of human sexual behavior are certain to arouse criticisms because of diverse ways of looking at the subject, and Dr. Kinsey's studies have been no exception. But as time has passed and as emotion and prejudice have been replaced to some degree by sober thinking, the criticisms of Dr. Kinsey's research have become less bitter, and more supporters, realizing the values of the study, have come to its defense. Many of the criticisms came from persons who had not read the books and who did not want to read them. Some critics depended on newspaper and magazine articles which often distorted the truth. Criticisms based on misinformation and swayed by prejudice and emotion cannot be valid. Dr. Kinsey, himself, was the most severe critic of his work from the scientific point of view. He did not pretend that he had the answers to all the problems. He realized the need for more data and better methods of analysis. If, however, he had waited until he had final answers to the problems, he would never have published. Science advances by degrees and can only approach solutions.

To demonstrate Dr. Kinsey's unselfish devotion to his work, it should be said that all income from the sale of his books, which were best sellers, was used to finance his research program.

Dr. Kinsey had interests other than university teaching and research on gall wasps and human sexual behavior, as is indicated by the publication of a high-school textbook in biology and the publication with Fernald of Harvard of a book on the *Edible Wild Plants of Eastern North America*. In his early years at Indiana he developed a beautiful garden in which he took special pride in his large collection of iris. Since boyhood he had had an interest in music and this interest was maintained throughout his life. He and Mrs. Kinsey collected a large series of records of classical music and invited their friends to their home for Sunday evening concerts. He was always a vivacious and entertaining host. Mankind is the loser by his untimely death, but what he has accomplished will live on. The gate to further knowledge has been opened and the path charted.

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