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IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES BARNEY CORY.

BORN JANUARY 31, 1857—DIED JULY 31, 1921.

BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

Plate IV.

YEAR by year the number of surviving founders of the American Ornithologists' Union is being reduced until one feels the pressure of coming time when it will be a distinction even to have known them. To those of another generation, their gradual passing has a peculiar sadness and a grim significance, which bring a realization that not only they themselves but the pioneer days in which they moved are gone forever. Their names and their works stand monumentally and their personal memories will linger long, but no one can ever replace them because they and their times are inextricably linked together.

In the death of Charles B. Cory during the past year, we have lost another pioneer and one who will be remembered not only as a productive ornithologist, but also as a man of great individuality and almost picturesque character. Mr. Cory was born in Boston January 31, 1857. His birthplace was a house built by his father at 1225 Washington St., facing the Catholic Cathedral on the site later occupied by the Arlington Hotel. On his father's side, he came of sturdy old New England sea-faring stock—son of Barney Cory, grandson of Nathaniel B. Cory and great-grandson of Philip Cory, whose grandfather came to America in the first

Charles P Coy

half of the seventeenth century and settled in Rhode Island. His grandmother, on his father's side, was Meribah Gardiner who was directly descended from George Soule, reputed to have reached Massachusetts in 1620. One of Mr. Cory's possessions at the time of his death was an old-fashioned mirror which belonged to Soule and had been passed down directly. His mother was Eliza Ann Bell (Glynn) Cory of Newport, Rhode Island.

His father, Barney Cory, beginning as an apprentice at the age of fourteen in the firm of J. D. & M. Williams of Boston, soon became a partner in a large importing business, dealing principally in fine wines, silks, and luxuries, and amassed what for the times was a very large fortune. Young Cory, therefore, came into the world with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. He had no brothers and but one sister who reached maturity so his early life was doubtless that of a favored child where to wish was to have. At the age of eight or nine he was sent to a private school on Park St., Boston, called Park Latin School. Later he went to William Eayr's School on Tremont St., and it was there that he was prepared for college. In 1870, his father built a very large house at 8 Arlington St., Boston, and the family removed there. This was Cory's home until 1892, when he sold it ten years after he had come into full possession of it through the death of his parents. At the present time, this house still stands and all, or part of it, is occupied by offices of the 'Atlantic Monthly.'

The boy Cory showed a decided interest in outdoor sports and in animal life. When only eleven, it is related that he saved money and secretly bought a pistol with which he and another youngster attempted to shoot some birds. His father encouraged his desires and had him expertly instructed in shooting, boxing, fencing, riding, and general athletics. At the age of sixteen, he made what might be called his first expedition, a hunting and fishing trip to the Maine woods with a young friend named Bicknell. This evidently fixed his interest in natural history, for within a year he had actively begun the formation of a collection of bird skins. This was in 1874, the year following the formal organization of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, which Cory joined in February 1876, and in which he made the acquaintance of William

Brewster, Henry Henshaw, and Ruthven Deane, all of whom were senior to him by six or seven years.

In 1875, although only eighteen years of age, he took his mother on a foreign tour on which they saw the usual sights in England, France, and Italy. In Florence, Italy, plans were made for a trip to Egypt, and just before starting, while pitching pennies to beggars in the Arno, Cory made the acquaintance of another young American, Martin Ryerson by name. Later, finding themselves on the same steamer bound for Alexandria, the two formed a lasting friendship. Together they organized an expedition by dahabeeya down the Nile, where they did considerable shooting and Cory made important additions to his collection of birds. His mother accompanied them on this trip, which was fraught with adventure, Egypt being in an unsettled state at the time. About a year later, on August 30, 1876, Cory and Ryerson went to Harvard together and were roommates there, occupying suite 32 in Beck Hall. Mr. Ryerson afterwards became one of America's most useful and influential citizens. He is now President of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, First Vice-President of the Trustees of the Field Museum of Natural History, and a trustee of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, while he holds many other positions of responsibility and trust.

Cory entered the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard, and while there had the advantage of working at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, where Dr. J. A. Allen was then Curator of Mammals and Birds. His college work was somewhat interrupted by periods of travel and short absences and it is evident that here as elsewhere he followed his bent without regard to rules and regulations. Although he did not continue at Harvard until graduation, his studies there, pursued along the lines which most interested him, covered a considerable proportion of the requirements. The fall of 1878 found him entered at the Boston Law School, but his studies here were pursued only a few months. At this time he was interested in many things besides ornithology, notably athletics and other sports, but his bird-collecting was never forgotten and was pursued in conjunction with many other activities. As amply evidenced later, it was always his paramount interest.

In November 1877, during his college days, a slight indisposition, probably plus a desire for an outing with the birds, caused him to run down to Florida, where he knocked about with a friend until January 1878. During this time he wrote a small book called 'Southern Rambles,' a sort of diary of the trip written in nonsense style. It was published by A. Williams & Company of Boston in 1881, and, although other titles appeared meanwhile, was really his first literary effort. With this trip to Florida in 1877 when twenty years of age, Cory began a life of freedom and pleasure in the pursuit of natural history and sport which has scarcely been equalled and which might well be the envy of many a man. For nearly thirty years he made trip after trip, collecting birds, hunting and fishing, and pursuing various hobbies and sports. With ample allowances from his father, he spent money freely and doubtless foresaw no future in which money ever would be a problem. His expeditions as a rule were not very lengthy and were alternated with periods at the home in Boston.

In 1878, he spent the months of July and August on the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the following autumn, while playing at the study of law, wrote the book 'A Naturalist in the Magdalen Islands.' In December of the same year he started for the Bahama Islands, taking with him, as became his custom on later trips, a friend, who sometimes acted as secretary, and also a taxidermist, in this case Arthur Smith, who accompanied him on several other occasions. They remained until July 1879, and six months later the well known book 'Birds of the Bahamas' was written and published.

In 1880, he again went to Europe, this time mainly to visit ornithologists and to purchase books and specimens. In England he met Sclater, Seebohm, Salvin, Godman, Porter and others. In France, Boucard and Sallè were among those with whom he fraternized. Returning to the United States, he began immediately to plan to follow up his work in the Bahamas with more in the West Indies, and on February 4, 1881, he sailed for Haiti, remaining there only a short time as a guest of the then president, but making important collections and laying foundations for the later work which made his collection of West Indian birds the best in existence and himself the leading authority in that field.

On August 18, 1882, his father died, and later his mother and his sister Jennie Louise (Cory) Tyler having also passed away, the entire estate came into his hands, making him, if not quite, then very nearly a millionaire, in a day when millionaires were far less numerous than they are now. Aside from the bereavement and the added responsibility, however, this made little difference to him, for his father had always liberally supplied him with money. His friends were naturally among men of large means and he moved in a circle which included some of the wealthiest men in America at that time.

He was married May 31, 1883, to Harriet W. Peterson, daughter of the Hon. Josiah Peterson of Duxbury, Mass., and a woman of of fine character and much charm. Thereafter his wife accompanied him on many of his shooting and collecting trips and entered with spirit into the life he loved. In later years her loyalty and devotion were a source of strength to him in many trying times. Two children were born to them, a daughter, Marion, who died in childhood, and a son, Charles B. Cory, Jr., now 30 years of age and successfully engaged in advertising work in Chicago. Shortly after his marriage he built his summer place on a thousand acre estate near Hyannis, Mass., on Nantucket Sound, where he had a large game park in which he kept elk, deer, antelopes, pheasants and other animals. Here he protected non-game birds and made what was one of the first (if, not the very first,) bird sanctuaries in America.

When the American Ornithologists' Union was organized in 1883, Cory was one of the noted company who attended the original meeting in New York and earned the title of founder. He almost immediately became a life member. In 1886 and 1887 he was Treasurer of the Union; in 1888 and again in 1896, he was a Councillor; in 1898 he was made Vice President and continued in that office until November 1903, when he became President of the Union, serving until November 1905. He had been a frequent contributor to the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Club' and although much of his work appeared in book form, he wrote numerous short papers, descriptions of new species, and notes for 'The Auk.'

In the fall of 1884, he went to Dakota and Montana shooting ducks and geese with his friends Martin Ryerson and Charles R.

Crane, and the following winter he rediscovered Florida, fell thoroughly in love with it and adopted it as his own. For the next twenty years without a break he spent all or part of every winter in this state. As a field for collecting birds, for shooting and fishing, for the sports and social activities of which he was fond, and as a point of departure for Cuba and other islands of the West Indies, it seemed made to his order. Florida suited him exactly and likewise he suited Florida. He traveled through it from end to end, he camped in the Everglades, he boated on the lakes and streams, he yachted on the coasts, and he luxuriated at the resorts. He was known to everyone who went to Palm Beach and throughout the state his name was almost as familiar as that of Henry M. Flagler. One of his hobbies was a small museum called The Florida Museum of Natural History, which he established at Palm Beach and in which he brought together a good representation of the fauna of the state, including a large variety of birds and most of the important mammals, reptiles, and fishes. He employed a taxidermist and caretaker and the place became one of the attractions of the resort. About 1903 it was destroyed by fire and only a few of the specimens, some of which constituted valuable records, were saved. This misfortune was always a matter of very great regret to him and in after years he would frequently mention particular species of which he had been especially proud—rarities or specimens procured by his own hand after great difficulty. In Florida he often invited friends from the north for short excursions or shooting trips. Among those so entertained were Martin Ryerson, William Brewster, Charles R. Crane, Joseph Jefferson and Admiral George Dewey. In January 1888, he encountered in his precincts a young man named Frank Chapman whom he found receptive and apt regarding many things, ornithological and otherwise, in which he was interested. An enduring friendship, therefore, was begun with another ornithologist.

Although never missing his annual visit to Florida and usually spending at least a part of his summers at Hyannis and Great Island in Massachusetts, he was on the move much of the time. In 1886, he made a short trip to Cuba, where he met the Cuban naturalist, Dr. Gundlach. In 1887, he went to Mexico and the

southwestern United States and later in the same year to eastern Canada. In 1888, big game shooting in Alberta occupied him for a few weeks. In July 1889, he again went to Europe and attended an International Congress of Zoology, meeting the French ornithologists Oustalet and Milne-Edwards and in England Alfred Newton and Bowdler Sharpe, spending considerable time with the latter. In 1891, he cruised about the West Indies, visiting Cuba, the Bahamas, and various small islands. In 1892, he was again in Cuba.

During all this time he employed collectors who accompanied him and who also worked independently. One of the best of these was Daniel J. Sweeting who worked especially in the Bahamas. The collection of birds was growing rapidly and in 1892 numbered nearly 19,000 specimens, occupying three rooms in the upper story of the large house on Arlington St., Boston. As collections came in they were rapidly worked up, many new species were described, and from time to time books were published. Thus, 'The Beautiful and Curious Birds of the World,' a folio with colored plates, appeared in 1883. One of the plates in this work was of the Great Auk and furnished the original of the engraving which for many years appeared on the cover and title page of 'The Auk.' 'The Birds of Haiti and San Domingo' came out in 1885; the first 'List of the Birds of the West Indies' in 1885–6; and the completed work on 'The Birds of the West Indies' in 1889.

In December 1887, Mr. Cory had been elected Curator of Birds in the Boston Society of Natural History. This was largely an honorary position with few obligations and was held by him until 1905. When the Arlington St. house was sold in 1892 the collection of birds had been removed to the museum of the Boston Society but was not destined to remain there but to pass to a new institution in the West. At the close of the Worlds Fair in Chicago in 1893, the Field Museum of Natural History, or, as it was then called, the Field Columbian Museum, was established. The President of the new institution was Mr. Edward E. Ayer and among its trustees were several of Cory's boyhood friends and business associates. These men knew of his ornithological interests and his large collection of birds. Therefore arrangements were

made by which his birds should form the foundation of the new museum's reference collections and by which he should become the Curator of Ornithology. At this time Cory was quite independent of position and did not wish to be tied to the routine of curatorial duties. Evidently the museum had contemplated an organization in which ornithology should be a division of a department of zoology. To secure his collection of birds and to conform to his wishes, however, an independent Department of Ornithology was established with Cory as curator without residence obligations. The remaining branches of zoology were included in a "Department of Zoology, except Ornithology" in charge of D. G. Elliot. Cory was thus in effect an honorary curator and he so-called himself, but officially he was never so designated by the Museum. By agreement with the Museum, it was settled that he should hold this position during his lifetime. This agreement pleased Mr. Cory greatly since it gave him some distinction, enabled him to continue enlarging his collection without being burdened with petty details of its care, and offered no serious interference with the almost nomadic life he was leading.

Mr. George K. Cherrie was employed as Assistant Curator of Ornithology and in the fall of 1894, was despatched to San Domingo where he secured large additions to the already unrivalled collection of West Indian birds. Mr. Cherrie continued as assistant until 1897 and was succeeded in 1898 by Mr. W. A. Bryan. Later there were a few years without a regular assistant until 1904 when Dr. Ned Dearborn was appointed. During this period and until 1906, Cory visited the Museum one or more times annually, made recommendations of a general nature, and then returned to Massachusetts. His own idea of his relation to the institution is very clearly expressed in a notation by himself found in his personal records. This is as follows, under date February 6, 1894:

"Signed an agreement selling my collection and working library only, now in Boston Society Narural History Museum in Boston, to the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago, and have accepted the position of Curator of Ornithology in the museum which is a high, compliment. I am at liberty to work as much or little as I please, but must direct the general government of the collection."

During this period of absentee curatorship, one of Mr. Cory's

activities was the publication of a number of popular books. Beginning with a new edition of his 'Hunting and Fishing in Florida,' issued in attractive and well illustrated form in 1896, there followed a series of handy manuals for the identification of birds. The first of these was called 'Key to the Water Birds of Florida' and appeared in 1896. This was followed in 1897 by 'How to Know the Ducks, Geese and Swans' and 'How to Know the Shorebirds.' These came out in paper covers for a small price and had a considerable sale among sportsmen rather than ornithologists, but they attracted the attention of ornithologists owing to the ingenious way in which their purpose was achieved. At this time, Coues' 'Key' and Ridgway's 'Manual' were still in vogue and the numerous pocket keys and other convenient aids for the novice which we now have were unheard of. Cory's keys were illustrated keys, dichotomous and brief, but with a woodcut of a head, a foot, or other unmistakable part of each species set into the text. Apparently they were original with him and they are to this day about as near foolproof as anything that has been devised for the identification of birds. As a culmination of the series, a key to 'The Birds of Eastern North America' in two parts was prepared and published in 1899 and 1900 in two editions, one by a Boston publisher for general sale and a special one by the Field Museum for distribution to its mailing list. This was the first important publication of Cory's authorship to be issued under the imprint of the Field Museum.

A few years later, in 1906, a crisis came in Mr. Cory's life. This was nothing less than the complete loss of his fortune. The ruin was practically unmitigated and took all his property save personal effects, reducing him in a few months from a man with the income of a millionaire to one required to earn the daily bread of himself and family, and he a man in middle age who had never earned a dollar in his life. The cause of the crash is of little importance now, but it may be said that it was principally due to heavy speculation in the so-called securities of the famous "shipping trust" and "sugar trust," speculations to which he had been induced through the advice of men much wealthier than himself and upon whom he depended to carry him through. This they could not or would not do and, since another of his properties

collapsed at the same time, the settlement of his obligations was quite beyond his means. Samuel Butler it is, I think, who somewhere says that the one thing from which no man recovers is the loss of his fortune. That Mr. Cory never recovered was evident to his close friends, but if he was inwardly embittered and broken in spirit, it was usually well concealed. His sense of humor never left him and he made a brave fight to the end, ornithology proving to be at once his salvation and his refuge. From a roving amateur he became a diligent professional. His position with the Field Museum was purely honorary and carried no salary. A salary had become a necessity and so a salaried position was provided for him at the Museum, that of Curator of Zoology. At the age of fifty he removed with his family to a small house in Chicago, renounced most of his former friends and associates, and settled down to a life of routine utterly different from the one he had been leading. His favorite recreation, the game of golf, was still possible to him and, although he was obliged to play at a small and inexpensive club, he continued to get much enjoyment from it. In later years, through infirmity, even this was denied him.

For fifteen years he came regularly to his desk at the Museum and worked diligently in the study of birds and in the preparation of ornithological books. Details of the work in the several divisions of his department were left largely to the assistants in charge. Far from being domineering or wilfully meddling, he seldom took the initiative and with few exceptions the men subordinate to him were treated with the utmost consideration. He immediately began the preparation of a book on 'The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, which the Museum published in 1909, a large well illustrated volume of 750 pages. Meanwhile his assistants Ned Dearborn and John Ferry were sent to collect birds in Central and South America and especially on islands of the Caribbean Sea from which collections would supplement the large West Indian collection of the Museum. Following the work on the birds, he produced a similar one on the 'Mammals of Illinois and Wisconsin,' a volume of 492 pages published by the Museum. This was done to a certain extent as an answer to unwarranted criticism intimating that he was solely an ornithologist without knowledge of other branches of zoology. It was an excellent piece of work, well

illustrated with maps, line drawings, and photographs, provided with keys for identification, bibliography, and glossary. Although largely a compilation, it contained many original notes on the habits of species known to him in former years. It is today one of the best works yet produced on the mammalogy of a political division of the United States. Such assistance as he received from professional mammalogists was largely general or advisory and the work therefore was entirely his own production.

Upon my own association with the Field Museum in 1909, Mr. Cory entered heartily into plans for continuous study of the fauna of South America and, although nominally subordinate to him, I was given a free hand in the employment of men and in the planning and conduct of expeditions. In the field work which followed in Central America, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Brazil, my recommendations were invariably approved by him, his only request being that birds should constitute a fair share of the collections made. During the next few years, in which quantities of fresh South American material were being received at the Museum, he occupied himself with the description of new species and in reorganizing voluminous bibliographic matter accumulated in previous years. This led to the conception of his last and most ambitious work, 'The Birds of the Americas,' and when, through embarrassment of the Museum's finances in 1913, field work in South America was discontinued, he was already becoming so engrossed in the compilation of this great work that he was less disturbed and disappointed than might have been expected. The amount of labor which he expended in preliminary work for this series was prodigious and when it came to the actual production of the first volume he left no stone unturned in order to make it as nearly complete and reliable as possible, at least up to the point of going to press. He corresponded with many ornithologists in this country and abroad concerning particular points, he followed up each case to the end, often personally paying for transcription and translation of matter in books not to be found in Chicago libraries. One thing he would not do, and that was the reading of his own proof carefully page by page. This was not on account of inability on his part, for as amply shown in other connections, he was, if he chose to be, a master of detail and a

marvel of accuracy. But proof reading he looked upon as drudgery and, doubtless through habits formed in earlier life when he was able to hire the best of assistance, he regarded a book finished when the manuscript went to the printer. Consequently 'The Birds of the Americas' and some of his other books were marred by typographical errors the number and importance of which varied according to the competence or incompetence of the clerks who happened to be in his employ when they were issued. Preparing the manuscripts, however, was another matter and this he did most scrupulously all in his own hand. The first part of 'The Birds of the Americas' appeared in 1918 and the second in December 1919. The third part was ready for the printer shortly before Mr. Cory's death and the manuscript of a fourth was approaching completion. His devotion to this work during his last days was most pathetic. In November 1920, he was stricken with a partial paralysis which left him able to move about and sit at his desk in his own home but unable to go to his office in the Museum. For the next eight months, although it was evident to his family and close associates that the end might come at any time, he himself showed no signs of any such belief and continued hopefully insisting that he could recover at least sufficiently to finish his book. The book and ornithological matters were uppermost in his mind and furnished almost the only subjects upon which he would talk to his Museum associates who visited him in these days. Specimens and books were taken from the Museum to his house and each day he put in a short time working or trying to work on the manuscript of the book. In July 1921, he went to a resort where cool weather might be expected and near there in a hospital in Ashland, Wisconsin, he died on July 31, after an acute illness of only a short time.

In the foregoing account of his life, his interest in ornithology has been dwelt upon especially. To understand him it was necessary to know his whole history. Ornithology was to him only one of the numerous sports which life afforded. It was all play to him and no one played with greater zest than he. His friends among ornithologists were few. For Brewster and Ridgway and Chapman he seemed to have a real affection and toward all the bird men of his own generation he was fraternally inclined, but for most of

his life his personal associates were not ornithologists. His contributions to ornithology are large. His bibliography, not yet compiled, includes well over 100 titles many representing books of considerable size. He discovered and described many new species and subspecies of birds and was directly or indirectly responsible for a large amount of exploration. At least seven species of birds were named in his honor and two, Cory's Least Bittern and Cory's Shearwater, bear his name although having technical names not referring to him. One large mammal, the Florida cougar (*Felis coryi*), was named in his honor.

To those who knew him, perhaps the characteristic that will be recalled most was his great capacity for discovering the humorous side of every situation. My first meeting with him was the occasion for him to relate some amusing stories in his office at the Field Museum and when I last saw him a few weeks before his death he even joked about his own pitiable condition. A good story was his delight and he never missed an opportunity to tell or to hear one. He was always fond of writing stories and clever doggerel for circulation among friends. In the small circle of ornithologists who from time to time sent out round robin jokes directed at each other's foibles he was usually to be counted on for an amusing contribution. Once Robert Ridgway sent him a fabricated composite specimen saying that he was about to name it in his honor as a new species. Cory, seeing a chance to turn the joke back, immediately telegraphed that he was greatly pleased, that he had prepared a colored plate of the specimen which he would have published at once with Ridgway as authority, and that he was sailing that day for the West Indies and thence-forth would be out of communication. His sense of the ridiculous, fondness for stories and a large human sympathy were expressed in several non-ornithological books, one of which was called 'Doctor Wandermann' and another was an interesting collection of short stories issued under the title 'Montezuma's Castle and Other Wierd Tales.' Among the unpublished manuscripts left by him are two nonsense books prepared and illustrated with considerable care in the hope that they might produce some much needed addition to his income. One of these was called 'Tales of a Nature Faker' and included some very clever items.

No account of Mr. Cory's life would be complete or fair which did not record his prowess in athletic sports and his love of games of all sorts. Most of his friends among ornithologists knew he had some reputation as a golf player, but probably very few of them realized how skillful he really was at this difficult game, or how he excelled in various other games and in other activities outside of ornithology. His interest in these things is not only a matter of record, but it is very important in estimating the character of the man. They were all games of skill and games in which supremacy was most severely contested. They required great physical control, accuracy, judgment and generalship. He played them all to win, he studied them from every angle, analyzed their every feature, concentrated on them, and never ceased until he excelled. This meant nothing less than hard work, very hard work, and a great deal of it. Incessant study and practice are necessary in making champions and without them native gifts cannot be developed.

As a boy, like most boys in Boston, he took up baseball, played a great deal, and was one of the first in the country to pitch the so-called curve ball. Next he became interested in shooting, especially pistol shooting, and became one of the best pistol shots in the United States. It is related by a freind, who was once his guest in Florida and who innocently proposed some pistol shooting to while away an hour, that Cory suggested a visiting card as a mark. To this the guest agreed but when actual preparation began he was aghast to find that Cory intended shooting at the edge of the card instead of its face. While still in college he began playing billiards and became so expert that the attendant notoriety was distasteful and when he won the billiard championship of the state of Massachusetts he did it under an assumed name. Later while in Europe, he once met the billiard champion of Belgium in a friendly match and defeated him. At one time he was interested in whist and played with some of the best players of that period.

He began playing golf in 1897, being one of the first to take up the game in America. From that time until 1915, golf was his principal recreation. At the Great Island Club in Massachussetts, of which he was the principal founder, he laid out what was practi-

cally a private golf course. In 1902, he won the North and South championship at Pinehurst, North Carolina. Later he was champion of Massachusetts, champion of Florida, and winner of many special events for which he received more than 100 prizes including no less than 75 silver cups. He wrote occasional articles for golfing magazines, he designed several special golf clubs, he invented and patented an apparatus for playing indoor golf, and his exhaustive knowledge of the game, its history, personnel, and everything pertaining to it was a marvel to the younger golfers with whom he came in contact in his later years.

For a number of years he was much interested in music. He had a good baritone voice and sang a great deal although seldom in public. He founded the Boston Glee Club and helped it along not only by his own voice and membership but by money contributions. He wrote the words for several light operas and one of these, called 'The Corsair,' was produced in Boston for the benefit of the Marine Biological Laboratory of Woods Hole. He also wrote the words for 'A Dream,' a very popular song often sung by prominent vocalists, including the late Enrico Caruso. Another subject to which he devoted considerable time was psychic research. In 1888 he was made chairman of a committee on hypnotism in the American Society for Psychical Research and he published two small treatises entitled 'Hypnotism or Mesmerism' and 'The Therapeutic Value of Hypnotism.' In this connection he spent much time and money in exposing tricksters both in this country and abroad. He never was able to believe that communication with the dead was humanly possible and he freely scoffed at theories involving such belief.

Despite the number and variety of the activities in which he zealously engaged, there was never a time when ornithology was crowded out and there can be no doubt that from end to end his greatest devotion was to the study of birds. As a boy in his teens he began to contribute to the literature of birds and until the day of his death he was a productive worker in the field of taxonomic and geographic ornithology. In later years, aside from incidents of failing health, the conditions under which he worked were such as to have discouraged a less determined man. The diligence and tenacity of purpose with which he pursued the tremendous

task of preparing his last book was truly remarkable. It has been said that ornithology to him was a game—the greatest and best game he played. If so, he played it like other games, to win, and none knew better than he that winners never quit.

Field Museum of Nat. Hist., Chicago.

THE BREEDING HABITS OF THE BARNACLE GOOSE.

BY F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M. A., M. B. O. U., C. F. A. O. U.

Plate V.

UNTIL the season of 1921, all that was definitely known of the breeding of the Barnacle Goose, (*Branta leucopsis* (Bechst.)), was due to the efforts of two ornithological workers, Dr. Alexander Koenig of Bonn, Germany, and Mr. A. L. Y. Manniche of Denmark. The few earlier breeding records are all of a more or less doubtful character. In 1858 a Goose and a nest of eggs were brought to the Swedish Expedition under Nordenskiöld by the harpooner of a sealing sloop from some locality near Bell Sound, Spitsbergen, but it is by no means certain that the bird was shot from the eggs and probably the eggs were found on one of the islets in the bay and belonged to *Branta b. bernicla.* A supposed case of breeding on the Lofoden Isles, Norway, in 1870–1872, was reported by Collett, but the eggs are remarkably small for this species, and the locality lies far outside the normal breeding range, so that even if no mistake was made, probably one of the birds was prevented from migrating by some injury. A nest with eggs from which the gander was shot is said to have been found by Nathorst and DeGeer in 1882 in Bell Sound, Spitsbergen, but here again there are discrepancies in the various accounts, Lieutenant Stjernspetz informing Mr. A. H. Cocks that three young were taken. In 1913, Mr. H. Noble was shown a clutch of five eggs and down which were said to have been taken in Iceland in 1912 (cf. British Birds (Mag.) X, p. 181).

The first really authentic information on the subject however, comes from Dr. Koenig, who gives full details of his discovery in his 'Avifauna Spitzbergensis,' p. 222–226. On June 29, 1907, he found a small breeding colony in one of the side valleys leading