

OBITUARIES

NATHANIEL GIST GEE, Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly, December 18, 1937, following an attack of influenza that weakened the heart. Born in Union, South Carolina, April 20, 1876, and receiving his M.A. degree from Wofford, 1898, in 1901, following educational work in the United States, he began an epochal career in Soochow University, China. His was the first Department of Biology in the colleges of China, so furnishing leaders for what was destined to be a popular subject, and Soochow men went forth to head Biological Departments in the Universities of Yenching, Nanking, Amoy, Nankai, and elsewhere. In 1921-22, Dr. Gee toured a number of Asiatic and Australasian countries, and then joined with the Rockefeller Foundation, serving in several important positions in premedical and medical education, and as adviser for China in Natural Sciences. When this work was completed, in 1932, he was selected as Vice-president of Yenching University, serving thus until 1935. Returning to his native State he became head of the Biology Department of Lander College, Greenwood, South Carolina, a position which he held at the time of his death.

He was connected with a number of Chinese and American scientific societies, was the author of several text-books for use in the schools of China, of numerous articles on freshwater sponges, and co-author of Gee, Moffett and Wilder's 'Chinese Birds.' Back in America, he began and edited 'South Carolina Natural History,' publishing an interesting variety of subjects. One of his last works was overseeing the gathering into one of several such serial articles on Indian place-names in upper South Carolina. Thus while ancestrally English, and having devoted his life mostly to China, his concluding work had to do with saving lore of the aborigines in his native State. It is not inappropriate that a supplementary list of names published since Dr. Gee's death has been bound in with the material he had reprinted from his publication, and instead of the usual "Finis" there is a memorial legend to him with a farewell inscription in the musical open syllables of the Cherokee aborigines of Carolina. His was a distinct contribution to the neighborhood research movement. Technically expert, biology was with him 'the science of life' and not a mere thanatology of preserved and functionless laboratory specimens. An educational pioneer in China, he returned to his native State to pioneer in a new way. His loss is a distinct one, not merely to his Carolina, but to the educational forces of the South.—A. L. PICKENS.

We regret to record the death, on November 14, 1938, of Dr. JOHN C. PHILLIPS a Fellow of the A. O. U. since 1925, well known for his many contributions to ornithology, culminating in the four-volume, quarto work on the 'Natural History of the Ducks.' He was born at Boston, November 5, 1876, and graduated from Harvard in 1895, later from the Harvard Medical School in 1904. His loss will be keenly felt by the many organizations and institutions of which he was an integral part. In his later years he devoted much energy to conservation of wildlife. It is hoped that a more extended notice of his ornithological work will appear later in 'The Auk.'—G. M. ALLEN.