

OBITUARIES

DAVID CLARK HILTON.—In the death of Dr. David Hilton on December 12, 1945, the medical profession lost a celebrated figure, the nation an outstanding citizen, ornithology an enthusiastic devotee, and a host of men, women, and children a beloved friend. Not many persons knew Dr. Hilton as an ornithologist. He was so busy as a surgeon that he had comparatively little time for birds, especially during his latter years. Yet so enthusiastic was he as a field observer that, visiting southeastern México on a vacation from January to mid-March, 1944, he kept a careful list of all the birds he encountered. This list he sent me in November of the same year, asking me to check certain of his identifications. How his letter served to remind me of a certain morning almost forty years before, when that same Dr. Hilton, our family doctor, talked with me on our front steps about the economic value of the birds of prey. I had in my lap a dead Marsh Hawk—victim of some neighbor lad's .22 rifle. One of Dr. Hilton's hands gripped his physician's satchel; the other spread the nearer of the hawk's wide wings.

David Clark Hilton, youngest son of John Bulin Whitehead and Mary Elizabeth Redgate Hilton, was born on the Hilton family homestead farm near Dorchester, Nebraska, on April 22, 1877. His early childhood, and summers of his teen years, were spent on this farm, which still is in the possession of the family. At an early age he manifested intense interest in the natural sciences, a fact which became the more apparent while he was attending the district schools in Saline County, Nebraska (up to 7th grade), the Brown Grammar School (7th and 8th grades), and West Division High School (Chicago). As an undergraduate he attended the University of Nebraska, from which institution he was graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1900. Throughout his school career he was an outstanding student. In 1901 he received from the University of Nebraska a Master of Arts degree in Embryology and was inducted into the honorary Society of the Sigma Xi. His distinguished work in embryology was no mean accomplishment in view of the fact that he was at the same time working toward his Doctor of Medicine degree, which degree was awarded him by Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago in 1903. While in Chicago he interned at St. Mary's Hospital and served as pathologist at the United Hebrew's Charities Dispensary.

Establishing himself as a practising physician and surgeon in Lincoln, Nebraska, he launched upon a full and useful career, heading the Science Department of the now defunct Cotner University in 1904–1905; being Demonstrator in Anatomy at the University of Nebraska, 1903–1905; becoming an attending surgeon at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in 1905 and Chairman of Surgery at Bryan Memorial Hospital in 1926. The last two positions he held until the time of his death. He did post-graduate work in Vienna and Paris in 1927. He was consultant in General Surgery for the U. S. Veterans' Bureau Hospital from 1930 to 1942. During the First World War he served his country as a Captain in the Medical Corps. His efforts in bolstering national defense at a time when our citizenry were being drugged by the insidious propaganda of the pacifists and isolationists were untiring. With Dr. H. Winnett Orr he organized the 110th medical regiment of the Nebraska National Guard, of which outfit he was Commanding Officer from 1925 to 1940. He was Division Surgeon of the 35th Division of the National Guard from 1927 to 1940. He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff School of the United States Army, being retired in September, 1940, as a Brigadier General of the line. His interest in military medicine took him to Warsaw, Poland, as American delegate to the 5th

International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in 1927, and to England, as delegate to the 6th Congress in 1929. He was awarded the Cross of the Army Medical School by the government of Poland in 1927. He became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1915. He was a member of the American Medical Association, Sons of the American Revolution, American Legion, Society of Colonial Wars, American Microscopical Society, Lancaster County (Nebraska) Medical Society, Interprofessional Men's Institute, Nebraska Genealogical Society, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, and the Acacia and Sigma Xi fraternities. Unusually devoted to the Masonic Order, he became a 33rd degree Mason, a Knight Templar, and a Member of the Red Cross of Constantine. An active and devout communicant of the church, he was for many years the Chief Warden of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Lincoln, and served on several important Episcopal Commissions as an appointee of the Bishop of Omaha. On August 23, 1900, he was married to Sarah Luella O'Toole. He leaves, besides his wife, three children: Mrs. Blossom Virginia Gish of Texas, Mrs. Ruth Burgert of Chicago, and Dr. Hiram David Hilton of Lincoln, himself an accomplished surgeon.

David Clark Hilton was the author of numerous papers on medical and military matters, but he published only a few ornithological articles. The best known of these is, perhaps, his 'Birds of the Ft. Leavenworth Military Reservation' (*Wilson Bulletin*, 32, no. 3, 1920). He was an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1941 to the time of his death; a Member of the Wilson Ornithological Club, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and National Audubon Society.

His death, which struck while he seemed so sound in body and excellent in spirits, was a blow to his family and wide circle of friends. Funeral services were held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and he was buried at Wyuka Cemetery, a beautiful spot in which for some forty years he had regularly observed the birds. An ornithological project in his memory, to be carried on within the State of Nebraska, will shortly be announced by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. In this way, at least, can Dr. Hilton's friends give expression to their admiration and affection for the great man who has gone from their midst.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON.

ERIC GRAHAM McDougall, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1933, passed away in London, Ontario, on December 29, 1944. He has been part-time librarian of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, in Toronto, since 1934. Mr. McDougall was born at Toronto, October 31, 1887, the son of Judge Joseph E. McDougall, of York County Court, and the grandson of Hon. William McDougall, one of the Fathers of Confederation. He attended Ridley College, St. Catharines, Ontario, and graduated from the University of Toronto in Forestry in 1911. He was associated for a short time with the Dominion Forestry Service, at Ottawa, and with the Forestry Service of British Columbia in Victoria.

Mr. McDougall served in the First Great War as a private with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He reached France in August, 1915, and suffered the loss of his left leg at Hooge, Belgium, in April, 1916. From 1917 to 1934 he was climatologist of the Meteorological Service of Canada, in Toronto. His appointment at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, in 1934, resulted from his desire to do something useful in natural history when ill health no longer permitted him to do full-time work.

'Phenological Observations' (1922), 'The Faunal Areas of Canada' (with the late Professor A. B. Klugh, 1924), 'The Moisture Belts of North America' (1925), 'The Range of the Caribou in Ontario' (1935) and 'Moose in Ontario' (1935) were his chief

published papers. At the time of his death he was on a committee preparing a history of the Amputations' Club, in which he took an active interest.

His widow survives him, and interment was in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.
—J. L. BAILLIE, JR.

JAMES SCHENK, Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, was one of the pioneers in bird banding and through his faithful efforts for nearly forty years made important contributions to this technique. Dr. Andrew Keve (Andreas Kleiner) has sent me information in regard to his life and achievements. Born in Overbósz in southern Hungary in 1876, Dr. Schenk attended the University in Klosesnór and in 1908, because of his ability as a mathematician, was asked by Otto Hermann to work up the results in bird migration in the Ornithological Institute in Budapest. At this time he started ringing birds, the third ornithologist to do so on a regular scale; Mortensen in Denmark had begun in 1899, Thienemann in Germany in 1903. His special interest lay in the study of migration, in the return of adults to their nesting areas and young to birthplace, in ages attained and mortality of young and old, as well as in the history of falconry and in bibliography. He edited the journal 'Aquila' in which a large section was always devoted to the reports on banding; he wrote the ornithological part of 'Fauna-Catalogus of Hungary' (1918) and the new Hungarian 'Brehm' (1929). In 1935 he became director of the Ornithological Institute and held this post until his death, February 22, 1945, of heart disease. Always active in bird protection, in 1938 he had been elected vice-chairman of the Bird Preservation Committee for Europe at the Ninth International Ornithological Congress at Rouen. It was here that I met him. He urged me to visit Hungary, arranged for my trip to Lake Velence, and spent a day showing me the birds. He was a charming and genial man, with great industry and great knowledge.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5725 Harper Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

PROFESSOR HERBERT EUGENE WALTER, an Associate of the A. O. U. since 1901, died at his home in Providence, Rhode Island, on October 1, 1945, in his seventy-ninth year. He was born in Burke, Vermont, on April 19, 1867, spent his schoolboy years in the neighboring village of Lyndon Center, and married Alice E. Hall of Lyndon in 1896. Mrs. Walter, who is an ardent bird student, and who, until recently, has long been active in Audubon and conservation circles, survives him.

Walter's renown as a zoologist has largely obscured his interest in birds. It was during slow convalescence from severe boyhood illnesses that he began to observe nature and bird life. In college this interest was encouraged by Jonathan Y. Stanton, a classics professor who was also an enthusiastic ornithologist, until it proved the gateway to a scientific career. Although Walter later specialized in the comparative anatomy of the vertebrates and in genetics, birds never lost their charm for him and he was ever active in encouraging others to find in bird study the same pleasures he had found.

Walter was graduated from Bates College in 1892. He did a year of graduate study at Brown University in 1892-1893, spent the following year studying in Germany, and then devoted ten years to secondary-school teaching before going to Harvard for two years, getting the degree of Ph.D. there in 1906. Following this, he joined the faculty of Brown University and remained there until his retirement in 1937 after having been full professor of biology for fifteen of his thirty-one years at Brown.

His first publication was a section on 'The Birds of Androscoggin County, Maine,' which he contributed to the 'History of Androscoggin County, Maine' (1891), while at Bates College. His paper on 'Bird Study in City Schools,' which was printed in

'School Science' (1900), is still a helpful and hopeful discussion of the subject. This problem of arousing interest in living things among city children led him to develop ingenious methods of making use of museums and other available aids. While teaching biology at the North Division High School in Chicago, he pioneered in combining voluntary field work with his courses by inviting his students to observe the spring migration of birds in near-by Lincoln Park. This project was unique in differing radically from the usual 'bird walk': he would explain the rules of field identification and then ask his pupils to submit personally observed details of certain minimal characteristics; and though he himself was in the park each morning to appraise the status of things, he did not point out anything. Thus, those students who wished to add to the master list of birds identified each season were forced to observe accurately in order to satisfy his keen but friendly grilling. This list was a prominent feature of the biology room and it created great enthusiasm. A secondary result of this field activity was 'Wild Birds in City Parks' published jointly with Mrs. Walter in 1901 and revised and enlarged several times until 1926.

While at Brown, Dr. Walter conducted university courses in ornithology from 1906 to 1916 and also gave extension courses in bird-study for teachers and other adult groups, as well as many free public lectures. Of these, 'Theories of Bird Migration' (16 pp), published in 'School Science and Mathematics' in 1908, shows his ability to evaluate, condense, and present clearly in historical sequence data from many sources. He made fact based on experiment stand out from fancy, foreseeing the need of a great increase in the store of facts as to *how individual birds migrate* before the answer to *why* they migrate could be found. But only those who saw and heard him reveal, with quick blackboard sketches and apt comparisons, the secrets of comparative anatomy and evolution as he described, for example, the bird's skeleton, can fully appreciate the illuminating charm of his teaching. Many have written him in later years to say that the enthusiasm for bird life he had aroused in them had remained one of their most treasured possessions.

Concurrently with his work at Brown, from 1906 to 1927 he conducted a summer class in field zoology at Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory, in which birds were always given due consideration as members of the biotic community. Until 1918, Mrs. Walter had a class studying the birds at Cold Spring Harbor, to which he contributed in the field and the lecture-room, adding many notes to her 'Study of the Birds of a Limited Area,' which we hope may yet appear in print.

Dr. Walter's best known writings are his 'Genetics,' a standard text with a large foreign circulation that was translated into Japanese as well as revised several times from its original publication in 1913 until 1938; and his 'Biology of the Vertebrates,' that also ran through several editions from 1928 to 1939.

Besides being an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, and serving as President and later as Director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Dr. Walter was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Society of Naturalists, the American Society of Zoologists, the American Genetics Association, the Eugenics Research Association, the American Museum of Natural History, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and the Board of Directors of the Long Island Biological Association. He was made a Doctor of Science by Middlebury College in 1934, and by Bates College in 1939.

Professor Walter had not a whit of pretension about him; his was the knack of encouraging enthusiasm by a genial and flatteringly generous interest in those who had the good fortune to know him. The notices of his death that have appeared in several other scientific journals will repay reading for those who would appreciate his scholarly and generous nature.—ROLAND C. CLEMENT, *Fall River, Massachusetts.*