

CHARLES DURY.

The death of Charles Dury on July 20, 1931, in his eighty-fourth year, after a few days illness, has removed from the ranks of American entomology one of its oldest workers. His interests were, however, broader than the branch in which he specialized and by which he is best known among entomologists. He belonged to that old-time group of naturalists—so few in these days of specialization—whose studies embraced the whole field of natural history. In this broader field, his chief interest lay in ornithology; many published papers attest to his careful observations of birds.

Charles Dury was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 14, 1847, the son of Francis W. Dury and Louisa M. Gibson. In 1862, Francis Dury settled in the suburb of Avondale (now a part of Cincinnati) and in the immediate vicinity of the original Dury homestead, Charles Dury passed the remainder of his long and active life.

Mr. Dury early acquired a taste for natural history, and in those days, his immediate surroundings offered ample opportunity for the development of his studies. His first active work was in ornithology. To his field observations he added a study of taxidermy, and about 1867, opened a shop for that work, which he carried on some forty years. Many beautifully mounted birds and mammals show his skill in taxidermy, for which he received a number of competitive awards. Early in life he attended the Miami Medical College, but did not carry his studies to completion.

Entomology later increasingly claimed his time and attention, and his collection of insects, particularly of Coleoptera, brought together from all parts of the world, is for North American forms, one of the finest and most complete in this country. This collection is left to his son, Ralph Dury, now Director of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History.

Although he published a number of papers on North American Coleoptera and described many new species, these but poorly represent the extent of his knowledge and the wealth of his observations in his chosen field. An authority on the Coleoptera, it is the regret of his friends and fellow students



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(Courtesy of Proc. Junior Society of Natural Sciences.)

that he could not be induced to publish his observations more freely.

An indefatigable collector and observer of nature, Mr. Dury acquired a fund of first-hand knowledge. The benefit of his experience he was always ready to give to others, and through advice and encouragement started many young students along the path to success. The writer of this article will never forget the sympathetic aid given her at the beginning of her entomological studies by this veteran entomologist, nor the opportunity for the exchange of ideas throughout many years.

Through correspondence, association in the field or study in museums, he was well known to the older taxonomic workers in most groups of insects. Entomologists throughout the country, and especially Ohio entomologists, will mourn his passing. Probably his closest entomological friend and his companion of many field trips was Professor J. S. Hine. Both possessed the same untiring energy and enthusiasm that mark the successful field worker.

The versatility of his interests and the long period of his scientific activity brought him in contact with many scientists of an earlier generation and gained for him the friendship of such men as Alfred Russell Wallace, E. D. Cope, Spencer F. Baird, George Horn, John L. LeConte, Robert Ridgway, and Elliot Coues.

Mr. Dury held membership in many scientific societies. The records of the Ohio Academy of Science show that he was a member from 1895 to 1919, Vice-President in 1896, President in 1907, and Trustee of the Research Fund 1907-08. He was a charter and life member of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, its curator of ornithology and entomology, its Secretary in 1912 and its President from 1914 until his death. The oldest member and a life member of the Cuvier Press Club, he was the custodian of their collection, a generous donor to the collection, and the preparator of nearly all of the specimens. At one time he served on the advisory board of the Audubon Society. He was a former member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and at the time of his death, a member of the Brooklyn Entomological Society.

His straightforwardness and integrity of character won for him the respect of all; he was a gracious teacher and a faithful friend.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Pearl Welch Dury; two sons, Ralph and Arthur; a daughter, Mrs. Louise Hippert, and two grandsons. To these, his friends and fellow scientists offer their sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

ANNETTE F. BRAUN.
