

The Days of a Naturalist—

An Autobiography of

W. S. BLATCHLEY

PREFACE

by PROFESSOR C. L. METCALF

Reprinted from

BIOS

Vol. XII, No. 3

OCTOBER, 1941

Mount Vernon, Iowa

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IN the death of Willis Stanley Blatchley of Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 28, 1940, America lost one of the greatest nature lovers and keenest interpreters of Nature's secrets this country has ever known.

Doctor Blatchley's writings are of two great classes: (a) popular essays and travelogues which reveal his deep love for, and unusual insight into natural phenomena, such as his "Gleanings from Nature," "Boulder Reveries," and "Woodland Idyls"; and (b) scientific works on the taxonomy or classification of insects, fishes, birds, flowers and weeds.

He is best known for his elaborate, highly scientific and extremely useful publications on the classification of the Coleoptera, Rhynchophora, Orthoptera and Heteroptera. These four volumes average nearly 1000 pages each; they are elaborately illustrated; they are so written as to enable the tyro to make correct determinations of the beetles, weevils, true bugs, grasshoppers and their relatives of the eastern United States; and are, at the same time, sufficiently comprehensive to be indispensable for the advanced students of these groups. They are probably more widely and constantly used by entomologists than the works of any other American author on insects.

In addition to providing the most useful books on the classification of these great groups of insects, Dr. Blatchley described hundreds of new species which he discovered in his travels. He was highly honored by many scientific organizations including election as an Honorary Fellow in the Entomological Society of America, a distinction shared by only nine other men at the time of his death.

Although best known as an entomologist, ornithologist, ichthyologist, botanist, and geologist, who served for 16 years as State Geologist of Indiana, he should also rate as a pedagogist of rare ability. He possessed that extremely valuable characteristic of great teachers, that he never lost appreciation of the level of knowledge of his readers and was not so engrossed in his own specialties that he forgot how little others knew about them. By starting at the level of his readers' knowledge and making his

works unparalleled in clarity as well as thoroughness, he was able to attract the beginner and carry him far in the intricacies of insect taxonomy. He was a man of high ideals, great and laudable ambitions, diverse interests and lasting accomplishments, and few scientists have spent their four score years so effectively.

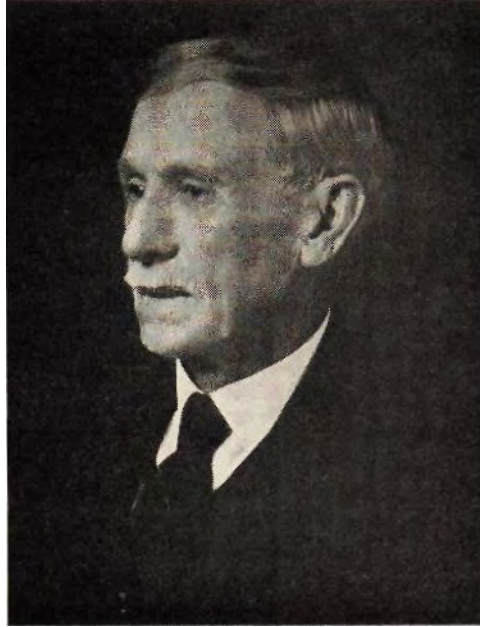
IN a record in an old family Bible which I possess, it is stated that I was born at North Madison, Connecticut, on October 6, 1859. That is probably true, but although I was one of the two principal personages present on that occasion, I have no memory of what the Hollywood people call a "blessed event."

My parents brought me to Indiana in 1860, and, for the next twenty years, I lived on farms near the hamlets of Groveland and Bainbridge, Putnam County. Both my parents, previous to their marriage, had been teachers. My father taught one year near Groveland and afterwards became a market gardener. There were in those days no Nature Study clubs, no Audubon Societies, and nothing concerning natural history was taught in the schools which I attended. During the summer months I helped my father in his garden work and the first insects I ever collected were the eggs, larvae, and adults of the "Colorado potato beetle" which, about 1869, invaded Indiana from the west. My father sometimes had an acre or more in potatoes and he had me collect the leaves which bore egg clusters on the under side and also beat the squirming larvae and the adults into an old tin basin, then burn them in a bonfire.

At the age of 17, I began to earn my first money of any consequence by peddling notions in summer and fall in Putnam and adjoining counties. I used part of my profits in attending, for a term or two, the normal school at Danville. I then secured a teacher's license and taught four winters in the country schools of Putnam County; the first winter for \$1.50 a day, the last one for \$2.50 per day.

Although most of my days up to that time had been spent in the Great-Out-of-Doors, I knew definitely by their common names not more than 30 kinds of birds, perhaps ten kinds of snakes, and probably 30 kinds of wild flowers. Of insects I knew best bumble-bees, honey-bees, bald hornets and yellow jackets, all of which had, from time to time, forcibly impressed themselves upon my perception. I knew also horse-flies, house flies, and perhaps ten kinds of butterflies. These and a few others I knew only as groups whose individuals resembled each other. I was wholly ignorant of the fact that all these living things are classified into orders, families, and subordinate groups. I did not know that there is such a thing as a genus or a species, and even yet I do not know that there is, as the limitations of a so-called species depend largely upon the

A late picture of Doctor Blatchley.



viewpoint of its author, while a genus, in my opinion, is only an artificial concept proposed by man to enable him the more readily to group his species.

In the spring of 1883 I entered the preparatory department of Indiana University for a ten-weeks course. The buildings of the University at that time were only two—the main building, a three-story structure, contained the college chapel and a number of class rooms. The other, "Science Hall," housed the college library and museum, and the chemical and geological laboratories. I visited Science Hall only a few times and remember being awed by the great casts of mastodons, mammoths, glypto-dons and megatheriums; also by the odor of gases and display of chemicals in the chemical department; but as at that time I did not know a megatherium from a trilobite, nor oxygen from hydrogen-sulphide, my judgment of Science Hall and its contents must have been rather crude. However, its wonders and the sight of the great library which it contained intensified my desire to obtain a college education, and when I left Bloomington in June, I was fully resolved to enter Indiana University proper the next autumn.

That resolve received a mighty shock when, on the morning of July 13, I noted by the papers that Science Hall, with all its contents had gone up in smoke the night before. For six weeks thereafter I debated whether or not I should enter college, and if so, whether I should not go to some other school than the one at Bloomington. I even went so far as to engage a school to teach for the ensuing winter, but finally, two days before the college term began, I made the best decision of my

life; I cancelled my contract with the school trustees and started for Indiana University.

My assets on entering college consisted of \$300 in cash, a wife and a baby; my liabilities nothing. When four years later, I graduated I had the same wife and two babies and was still 'without liabilities.

For some strange reason at the time of registration, I gave German (God save the mark!) as the specialty I desired to follow, but after a few weeks I discovered that I was deficient in aptitude for grasping readily the vital points of a foreign language. Meanwhile I was hearing much of the teachings and ability of Dr. David Starr Jordan, who was at the head of the Department of Zoology. On account of the burning of Science Hall he now had his working laboratory in a small room on the top floor of the one remaining building. Near the end of the fall term I decided to interview Doctor Jordan and so went up to his work room where I found him with Joseph Swain, Charles Gilbert, and Seth Meek, busily engaged in classifying alcoholic specimens of ocean fishes. I introduced myself and told him that I had heard much praise of his work in the Department of Zoology and that I should like to change from the German course for which I had registered to that of zoology. He asked me a few questions about my past, and reaching down into one of the cans, he brought up a very brilliantly-colored fish and said: "Well, you may take your choice between "Ich bin, du bist, er ist," and the study of such objects as this." I chose the fish and on that day I started my career as a naturalist.

Up to that time Jordan had published three editions of his "Manual of Vertebrates," and he and Professor Gilbert had brought out in 1882 their noted work *A SYNOPSIS OF THE FISHES OF NORTH AMERICA*. In a few days I began to attend his lectures on zoology, evolution and kindred subjects, and in the laboratory he put me at work on the study of fresh water fishes, using his *MANUAL OF VERTEBRATES* as a text. The first three scientific papers I ever published were prepared under his supervision on some fresh water fishes of Indiana. They appeared in the *PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES* in 1885.

Doctor Swain was at that time teaching the freshman botany class and in the spring of 1884 I joined it and learned for the first time that most flowers have stamens, pistils and other organs which are used in their reproduction and in their classification by man. He wished some one to collect plants for his class and learning that I was working my way through college, gave me the job, which paid twenty cents an hour, and which I thereafter held until I graduated. On Saturdays and the late afternoons of other days I roamed the hills for miles around, studied the plants in their natural habitats, kept notes of where they occurred and their time of blooming and discovered the hidden beauties of the snow trillium and the trailing arbutus. During the spring term of

my senior year I taught the freshman class in botany and my graduating thesis was "The Flora of Monroe County," in which I listed with **full** notes 680 species of flowering plants and ferns and about 20 kinds of mosses and liverworts.

There was in Bloomington at that time a shoe cobbler who had much influence with certain members of the faculty. They gathered in his shoe shop in late afternoons to discuss the affairs of the world, both past and present. While only a self educated man, Henry S. Bates could hold his own with the best of them, as he was acquainted with the literature and beliefs of the noted writers of all time. His shop was called "The Bates School of Philosophy" and Doctors Jordan, Swain, W. L. Bryan and several of the ministers and lawyers of the town were among his students and special friends. I had become acquainted with him in the spring of 1883 - when I made my first visit to Bloomington. He liked to take tramps with me on Sunday afternoons and he showed me for the first time the beauties of the rainbow darter and fringed gentian.

He had been elected city treasurer and in my freshman year appointed me his deputy to collect delinquent taxes. I was allowed a fee of 50 cents for making a demand on each delinquent, and also three percent of what was paid in, which sums were added to the amount of their taxes. If necessary I could also levy on their household goods and sell them if the taxes were not paid. I needed those half-dollars and for two or three years collected from more delinquents than had ever before been done; among them several prominent attorneys, one of whom, in a few years, was elected to congress and another to county judgeship. This tax collecting was one of the numerous ways in which I paid my way through college.

In my sophomore year I became interested in the spring migration of birds, especially the warblers, a group of small, usually brightly colored insect-eating species, which previously I did not know inhabited the earth. Uncle Tommy Spicer, the custodian of the old University grounds allowed me to shoot warblers from the trees on the old campus. On one Saturday afternoon in early May when the migration was at its peak, I killed 21 species, determined their names by Jordan's Manual; skinned them, treated the skins with arsenic and labelled them with place and date of capture. On my botany trips I carried my borrowed shot-gun with me, shot such birds as I saw, and thus literally "killed two birds with one stone." One of the first birds I killed I could not identify by Jordan's Manual so I took it to him and he smiled broadly when he told me it was an English sparrow, not mentioned in his keys, but only in a footnote which I had overlooked.

I continued my study of fishes, birds and plants and by the **end** of 1885 considered myself quite a naturalist. In that year Doctor Jordan was appointed President of the University and soon afterward brought

to the faculty Dr. J. C. Branner, one of his former classmates at Cornell (Ithaca). Doctor Branner had served several years as a geologist in Brazil, and while there had become interested in insects. Jordan had him form a class in entomology in which he taught insect anatomy, the functions of their different organs and the rudiments of their classification. From him I learned for the first time that insects have six legs, many of them both simple and compound eyes, and also the different stages which they undergo before reaching maturity. The only two members of that class which I now remember were Charles Bollman, then about 18 years of age, who in time became an authority on the myriapods of this and other countries, and Jerome McNeill, who afterwards wrote many papers on Orthoptera. Doctor Branner had each member of the class make a private collection of some group of insects and we three often collected together in the region about Bloomington. My collection was devoted mainly to butterflies which I kept in cigar boxes with corn-pith instead of cork in the bottom. This ten-weeks course in entomology under Doctor Branner was the only time I ever gave to that subject in any school. What I learned of it in after years I acquired by my own investigations. My first published papers on insects were *SOME INDIANA BUTTERFLIES*, issued in three installments in the *Indiana Farmer* in the fall of 1886, and, in the same year *SOME SOUTHERN INDIANA BUTTERFLIES*, in vol. II of the *HOOSIER NATURALIST*, a small periodical of that time which was published at Valparaiso, Ind.

Doctor Jordan was in the habit of taking the seniors of the zoology and botany classes on tramps to introduce them to nature in the raw. In the spring of 1886 he took about 30 of them, most of them ladies, on a trip to Weed Patch Hill and Nashville in Brown County. A day or two before they started he asked me to accompany them, as he wished to have them study plants when they stopped to rest and he wanted me to collect the plants and bring them in to the students. We started about 8 o'clock one forenoon and, after stopping at a number of places, he asked me to go ahead and secure lodging at farm houses, telling me that he knew that I had had experience of this sort in the years when I was a pack peddler. Some of the ladies, who probably had never walked more than a half mile at a time, became very tired by the middle of the afternoon, so that their progress was slow. By the time I got back to them it was almost sundown and I had found places for all of us but two. Doctor Jordan said that he and I would go ahead and try to find a lodging place. About dark we came to a one-room log cabin with a lean-to kitchen. The owner at first refused to keep us, but as it had begun raining Jordan told him he had to take us in, which he finally agreed to do. In the main room there were two large beds and another one was probably in the loft, as they put their 10-year old boy up there to sleep; taking down a ladder which was resting against the ceiling of

our room and opening a trap-door to allow him to reach his bed. The man, his wife and a baby slept in one of the beds and Doctor Jordan and I in the other. That was as close, physically, as my famous teacher and I ever got together. He waked me up about one o'clock to listen to a whippoorwill "which was uttering its monotonous call note from our roof, thinking that I had never heard one, but that was one of the few birds that I knew when I entered college.

Up to that time I had had a kind of reverence for and awe of Doctor Jordan, and hesitated about speaking to him concerning personal matters. As we could hear the man and his wife snoring we knew that they were asleep so we talked in low tones for a short time. I made bold to tell him that I was not satisfied to become an ichthyologist and asked his opinion as to what other branch of zoology he considered most promising for a student who "wished to do original work. He told me that entomology was one of the most neglected subjects in this country; that there were hundreds, perhaps thousands of species of insects as yet undescribed, and he advised me to become a specialist in that subject. This I made up my mind to do and that night decided my future life work. In the morning Doctor Jordan and I went down to the spring house to wash our faces in an old tin basin there provided. He then looked around for a towel, and seeing some cloths hanging on some bushes he picked up one of them. The lady of the house having watched us, came running out of the kitchen with a towel and said: "Don't use that, mister, that's the baby's didy!" Up to that time I had not collected beetles except a few "Oh my!" ones, such as a large "stag beetle," with jaws branched like the horns of a deer which I found in my garden, and also some very large and handsome wood-boring beetles. But I soon began collecting them in earnest and when I graduated in 1887 I had more than 30 cigar boxes full of them.

Dr. B. W. Evermann, was at that time a special student of Doctor Jordan, and he and I in 1885 and 1886 became close friends and often collected birds together around Bloomington. He "was a fine all-around naturalist and at his graduation in 1886 became head of the Department of Zoology in the State Normal School at Terre Haute. After my graduation he secured for me a position as head of the Science Department in the Wiley High School in that city, and we soon began making collecting trips together on Saturdays and late afternoons in the region around Terre Haute. The topography of that region is varied and was then very interesting to a naturalist. It included the land of the river bottoms in which there were several very large ponds, "which each year were left when the waters receded from the frequently flooded areas. There were also numerous sand hills east and north of the city and large areas of raw prairie, both near Heckland, a station nine miles north on the railway, and in the level upland country to the south.



Doctor Blatchley at work. An ordinary umbrella was a favorite piece of collecting equipment with the famous entomologist. He would beat the foliage and let the debris fall into the umbrella. Picking out insects and insect larvae was then easy. The Blatchley Club of Noblesville Indiana has this umbrella in its collection of Blatchleyana.



"My Nature Nook"

The Old Leaning Oak was a much frequented resort with Doctor Blatchley. It was here that he did much of his nature writing including the notes for "My Nature Nook."

W. S. Blatchley panning gold from a stream in Brown County, Indiana. This picture was taken in 1899 and appears in "Blatchleyana II."



While collecting with McNeill at Bloomington I had become interested in Orthoptera and in the prairie regions near Terre Haute I found many species unknown to me which I began to study critically. I wrote a number of papers regarding them for the periodicals, THE CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST and PSYCHE. The first three papers I published in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIANA ACADEMY were "The Gryllidae or Crickets of Indiana" in the volume for 1891 and "The Locustidae (katydids and green grass-hoppers) and Blattidae (cockroaches)" in the one for 1892. All these papers in later years served as a nucleus for my two large works, THE ORTHOPTERA OF INDIANA, 1903) and THE ORTHOPTERA OF NORTHEASTERN AMERICA, (1920.) Reptiles and Batrachians I also found abundant on the sand hills and about the large river bottom ponds. As the high school was paying for the alcohol, I built up quite a collection for the zoology department. Especially was this true of the Batrachians, so that by 1894 when I left the county, I had taken therein 24 of the 27 species recorded by Hay from the entire State; among them three species not before taken in Indiana. Of reptiles I took 28 species, one of which, the Calligaster chain snake formed a new record for Indiana. As a result of my work with these interesting forms I published two papers entitled "Notes on the Reptiles and Batrachians of Vigo Co., Ind.", one of which appeared in 1891 in the Journal

of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, the other in my State Geological Report for the year 1900.

One of the chief factors which led to my success as a naturalist was the taking into the field pocket notebooks and writing down the facts which I observed and the thoughts which they engendered. At times I would write for ten or fifteen minutes or more. From these notebooks I began to write articles for the TERRE HAUTE SATURDAY EVENING GAZETTE, such as "Mid-Summer and Mid-Autumn along the Old Canal," and a number of popular articles on the habits of snakes, birds, etc. I have yet on hand more than 40 of these notebooks containing my original field notes and from them my "Gleanings from Nature" (1899) ; "Boulder Reveries" (1907) and other nature books were prepared. For the articles in the GAZETTE I received from three to five dollars each. Of this money I made a special fund and in time had enough to purchase 30 Schmitt Insect Boxes and to have built a tight case to hold them. I was then able to remove my rapidly growing insect collection from cigar boxes to a better protection from Dermestes, etc.

Two of my summer vacations I served as a teacher of Science in a Normal School in Wabash County and one (1889) in field work in the wilds of Arkansas, tracing outcrops for the preparation of maps for Doctor Branner, who had become State Geologist there. I had many interesting experiences during these summers. On one occasion in Arkansas I was water-bound by heavy rains and secured lodging with a near-by native. He had a log cabin with one room and a lean-to, the latter without a door. Under my bed in this lean-to three hounds had their nightly abiding place and they scratched fleas and at intervals bolted out to chase a coon, so that my weary bones had little rest. I was working by myself and on several occasions was often lost for hours until I heard a distant rooster crow or a dog bark.

On September 27, 1890 an incident occurred which probably changed the whole course of my future life. One of the leading citizens of Terre Haute at that time was W. R. (Riley) McKeen—President of the McKeen Bank, and also President of the Vandalia Railway. He owned a large country estate about two miles east of the city. I had been out gathering material for my classes and had my shot-gun with me. On my way home I took a short cut through McKeen's wooded pasture. It was posted against intruders but in those years I paid little attention to posted domains except during the quail hunting season. Suddenly I saw a bird which I did not recognize alight on a branch of a maple tree. I shot it and about the time I picked it up a man came running toward me and asked what I meant by shooting on his posted ground. I showed him the bird, told him that I was a teacher of Science in the Wiley High School, that I had been collecting birds for years and had a large

number of bird skins which I used in my classes. I also told him that more than 300 kinds of birds were known from Indiana and that they are classified into families, etc.; that my bird belonged to the sparrow family which includes many species, but that this one was unknown to me, and that I was going to identify it the next day. In fact I talked to him like a Dutch uncle as I did not wish him to have me arrested for trespass as he at first threatened to do. He became interested, asked me to come to his office after I had identified the bird, and tell him what it was. It proved to be a specimen of the clay-colored sparrow, a western species. Butler, on page 960 of his 1897 "Birds of Indiana" states that my specimen was the first and only one known from Indiana at that date. A day or two later I went up to McKeen's private office above his bank. He greeted me cordially and we talked for a half hour or so. He asked questions about the bird and other features of my work, and when I rose to leave asked me if I would not like to accept a pass over his railroad to aid me in collecting in other parts of the State.

In the summer of 1891 Dr. J. T. Scovell, then teacher of geography and geology in the State Normal, invited me to become a member of his second expedition to determine the height of the volcano Orizaba, Mexico. He wished me to collect insects, reptiles and other forms of life about the base and on the slopes of the mountain. He and Doctor Evermann induced the Terre Haute School Board to appropriate \$90 toward my personal expenses, and as we had railway passes for the round trip, I had to add little from my private funds. It was my first visit to a tropical region and I had many interesting experiences. After my return I published three papers, based on my collections, in one of which I described two new species of salamanders.

During my visits to the State Geologist it had occurred to me that if such a man (I had found him drunk) was deemed capable of filling that office, I also could fill the position. Indiana at that time was the only state in the Union in which the State Geologist was elected by the people. I therefore made it known to my friends that I would enter the contest for the nomination at the next Republican state convention. I "was nominated on the second ballot and was elected at the general election in November, 1894. At that time I knew little or nothing about politics, but during the next 16 years I learned much, as I was nominated for the four-year term at five different Republican conventions, elected four times and defeated by my Democratic opponent in the general election in November, 1910. I could, from my experiences while I held the office, write a large volume entitled "Science vs. Politics."

From 1900 on my work in gathering data for my annual reports took me into every county in the State and gave me an opportunity to collect insects and plants in those regions. In 1903 I published my

"Orthoptera of Indiana." After it was issued I had more time to give my attention to the collecting of beetles (Coleoptera) and true bugs (Heteroptera). In 1907 I issued my third Nature book, "Boulder Reveries," a little volume of extracts from my notebooks. These had been written by the side of some large boulders on the hillside slope of an old woods pasture in Putnam County. This book brought about my acquaintance and friendship with James Whitcomb Riley which continued until his death in July, 1916. After it was issued I began to put into shape my notes on Indiana Beetles which I had been collecting for 23 years, or since 1884. It took all my time outside my office duties to get it ready for the printer, and in 1910 I offered it to the State Printing Board as a part of my annual report for that year. After about 200 pages of it had been set in type by the State Printer, Thomas R. Marshall, the then Democratic Governor, learned that it was to be quite a lengthy paper and ordered the printing stopped. Fortunately I had had a bill put through the legislature a year or two before giving me the power to issue bulletins in addition to my regular annual reports, provided I paid for their publication out of the sum allotted for the expenses of my department. I therefore took advantage of this law and offered the manuscript as a bulletin of my department.

My work as a naturalist had, up to this time, been almost wholly done in Indiana but, on January 3, 1911, a few days after my term as Geologist expired, my wife and I, accompanied by Judge Lucius Hubbard of South Bend started to Florida for the winter. The Judge was especially interested in botany and in fishing. From Jacksonville, where we remained a few days, we took the delightful trip by boat up the St. John's River to Sanford, then went across the state by rail and down the west coast to St. Petersburg. Finding collecting conditions there very poor we went on down to Sarasota, where I rented a cottage. While there the Judge and I hired a horse and wagon and drove 25 miles westward to the Miaki River where, in a wooded area on one of its banks, we found a fine camping place. Here the Judge caught many kinds of fishes while I hunted insects and birds.

On my return to Indiana in the spring of 1911, I began the preparation of the manuscript of my Indiana Weed Book in which I described, illustrated and gave full notes on the habits, distribution, methods of eradication, etc. of 150 of the worst weeds of the State and brief characterizations of 77 others. Eighty percent of these weeds occur throughout the region east of the Rocky Mountains and the book is used as a text or reference work in hundreds of high schools and colleges. It was issued in 1912 as was also my fourth Nature book, Woodland Idyls, the latter prepared from notes written during three camping experiences in Putnam County, Ind.



Main excavation in the Ormond Shell Mound. In this excavation Doctor Blatchley discovered the humerus of the extinct Great Auk, April 1899.



During the summer months of 1913-1916 I found that I had much time on my hands and as I had been so long using my brain for intensive work, I could not stop it at once and so began the preparation of my second Manual of Insects, on Rhynchophora or Weevils—a group of beetles with head prolonged into a snout or beak, which they use in boring into wood, fruits, etc. On account of lack of space these beetles were not included in my "Coleoptera of Indiana." After much of the manuscript had been written, I learned that Chas. W. Leng, of Staten Island, New York, had begun a similar work on the weevils of the Eastern States. We therefore arranged to prepare a joint work describing all the weevils known from the United States east of the Mississippi River and from Canada east of the 90th meridian. We named it "The Rhynchophora or Weevils of Northeastern America." It was issued in September, 1916, contained 682 pages with 155 text illustrations. It treated 1084 species of which 76 were new forms which I described, most of them from Florida.

The winters of 1916 to 1920 inclusive I passed in Florida and made numerous trips down into the Everglade region and to Cape Sable, Key West, and the Ten Thousand Islands. On these trips I found numerous insects, especially Orthoptera, unknown to me, and from my notes and study of these, using my previously published papers on that group, I prepared my Orthoptera of Northeastern America, an illustrated volume of 784 pages, published in 1920.

This was followed by "Heteroptera or True Bugs of Eastern North America," an illustrated volume of 1186 pages which I published in 1926.

This work on Heteroptera was the fourth and last of my larger manuals. They had been conceived by necessity and brought forth with great labor. In them I had used as simple language as possible with a view of helping the beginner, but they were comprehensive enough to be of aid to advanced students and they furnished in one volume information which otherwise would have to be sought through hundreds of books and pamphlets.

I had long had a desire to visit South America—that great country so full of undeveloped resources, that lies mostly to the southeastward of the United States. I realized that I had to make the trip before I was much older, so in the winter of 1922-23, instead of going to Florida I made a four-months trip to South America. The objectives of this trip,

all of which were fulfilled, were four in number. 1)—To see the country, especially the Andes Mountains and to study at first hand its human animals, the common people. 2)—To visit the different museums, universities and other scientific and educational institutions. 3)—To make personal acquaintance with the leading biologists of the different countries visited, with many of whom I had had correspondence. 4)—To collect where opportunity offered, insects of the orders Coleoptera, Orthoptera and Heteroptera, in order to become more familiar with the distribution of the families and genera of these groups. I left New York City on November 13 and reached Rio de Janeiro on December 4. This city is the second largest in South America. It is said to be one of the most beautiful in the world and is situated on one of the finest harbors known to man. I remained there 12 days; then went by rail to Sao Paulo, the center of the largest coffee-growing district in the world, 310 miles inland from Rio. Located near this city is one of the finest museums in South America and also the largest laboratory in the world for the making from the venom of rattlesnakes a serum for the cure of the bites of poisonous reptiles. From Sao Paulo I went down over what they say is the most costly railroad in the world to Santos, the greatest known coffee shipping port. There I took another steamer for Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, 1027 miles distant. I remained there four days, then went by steamer across the La Plata River, 130 miles, to Buenos Aires, the largest city in South America and the metropolis of Argentina. It is a city of nearly three million inhabitants, where they sell everything produced on earth paying for what they sell with grain, cattle, hogs and their by-products. Remaining there eight days I then went 460 miles by rail northwestward to Cordoba, a city of 160,000 people. It was founded in 1583 and in it is located the second oldest university in South America, founded in 1613, which out-dates Harvard (1636) by 23 years. Here also is the National University and the National Weather Bureau of Argentina, both of which are in charge of scientists from the United States. From Cordoba I went by a recently completed narrow gage railway to San Juan at the base of the Andes Mountains and from there across the Andes to Santiago, the capital of Chile, a most interesting city of 350,000 people, where I remained ten days.

The Republic of Chile with an area of almost three million square miles, is peculiar among other South American nations in that it is three thousand miles or more in length, no where more than 250 miles in width, and divided into three topographical regions, one of them, 825 miles in length, forming one of the most arid deserts of the world; a second, the central portion, 750 miles in length, rich in agricultural and mining possibilities, with a climate more like that of Indiana than any country I saw; third, largely a vast archipelago, reaching from the mainland 1500 miles farther southward to Cape Horn. Leaving Chile we crossed

Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake on earth and from its shore took a railway to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Incas, a city of 30,000 people lying at an altitude of 11,000 feet. It is a city of a thousand streets, in places these being combined into one. The streets are not over ten to fifteen feet wide, paved with cobble stones and most of them with an open ditch for sewage running down the middle. A few miles from the city are the ruins of a famous fortress on a plateau lying 650 feet above the city. According to Senator Hiram Bingham, this fortress is the "greatest achievement of ancient man in America." I stayed at Cuzco three days, then took a train back to Lake Titicaca and from there another one to Mollendo, a seaport of Peru. The steamer was two days in reaching Callao, the seaport of Lima, 20 miles distant from that city. From Lima and its Port Callao I took a boat for the Panama Canal. While in South America I collected probably 5,000 specimens of insects which, with labels showing their place and date of capture, are now in my former collection at Purdue University.

In 1932 I condensed my notes taken in South America into a volume of 391 pages entitled "South America as I Saw It: The Observations of a Naturalist on the Living Conditions of its Common People; its Topography and Products; its Animals and Plants."

On November 16, 1927 my wife and I started for Los Angeles, California, where we remained until March 15, 1928. I collected Coleoptera, Heteroptera, and Orthoptera in the parks and other localities about Los Angeles, and also made a trip down through the Imperial Valley to the Salton Sea. On March 15 we went to San Francisco where I worked for a month for Doctor Evermann in classifying and arranging the Orthoptera in the collection of the Museum of the California Academy of Science. I published but one paper on the insects taken in California, a 16-page article entitled "Notes on a Collection of Heteroptera taken in Winter in the Vicinity of Los Angeles, Calif."

In 1924 I made my first visit to Royal Palm Park, located on an island in the Everglades about 40 miles southwest of Miami. The park was at that time controlled by the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and while there I made an agreement with them that I was in time to prepare a paper on the natural history of the island. This they were to illustrate and publish. After that until 1930 I made six trips of two to four weeks each to the Park. However, the Women's Club lost all its funds in a bank failure at the close of the Florida boom and the only unpublished manuscript I have is one of 600 or more pages which I had prepared for them.

About 1930 my eyesight began to fail so that I was no longer able to study insects and prepare papers on them for publication, nor have I since been able to collect them on account of a chronic case of neuritis.

In 1926 I therefore disposed of my entire mounted collection of insects, including nearly 500 types of species which I had described, to the Department of Entomology at Purdue. There it is kept in a fire proof building and is available for examination by persons interested.

Since 1930 I have, from my notebooks, written and published two nature books—one, entitled "My Nature Nook; Notes on the Natural History of Dunedin," which contains 302 pages and 15 half tone plates. The other, "In Days Agone: Notes on the Fauna and Flora of Subtropical Florida in the Days when most of its Area was a Primeval Wilderness," a work of 338 pages and 15 plates.

During the years from 1930 to 1939 my winters have been passed at Dunedin and my summers at Indianapolis. In winter my time has been mostly spent in reading; in working on my trees, shrubs and vines, of which I have nearly 250 kinds growing on my lot, and in the study and arranging of the postage stamps of the world, a former hobby of mine. In 1937 I made a trip to North Madison, Connecticut, the place of my birth. The house in which I was born is still in good condition and occupied. It bears a tablet stating that it was erected in 1730. On my way home I stopped for a week on Staten Island with my friends Chas. W. Leng and Wm. T. Davis, then returned from New York by air-plane, making the trip to Indianapolis in four and a half hours, my first experience in travel by air.

In 1938 I published "The Fishes of Indiana, with Descriptions, Notes on Habits and Distribution in the State," a brochure of 121 pages and 39 illustrations.

I have thus given hurriedly the main facts concerning my "Days as a Naturalist" since 1883, when Doctor Jordan started me in my future life work. In my work I have had hundreds of interesting experiences. The days which I have spent in the field collecting birds, insects and plants were the happiest ones of my life. I thank the fates that led my steps in the pathways of a naturalist and, could I punch a button and live literally my life again, taking the bitter with the sweet, I would gladly do so.

I often ask myself: What is it all when all is done? During my four score years I have tried to help increase man's stored knowledge and appreciation of some of the common things he can see and find 'when he goes out where nature abides. I have not worked for great wealth nor for personal glory or so-called "Fame." For what is fame? Henry Watterson has defined it thus:

"A mound, a little higher graded— Perhaps upon a stone a chiseled name; A dab of printers' ink, soon blurred and faded, And then oblivion—that, that is fame."