

## NECROLOGY

AMOS WILLIAM BUTLER

Brookville, Indiana  
October 1, 1860

Indianapolis, Indiana  
August 5, 1937

At the fortieth meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held in Chicago, October 23-26, 1922, I was introduced to a tall, dignified member of the Union. He had a kindly smile and friendly manner which captivated me. Everyone seemed to know him, and he seemed to know everyone. That member was Amos William Butler. In response to an inquiry I replied that I had been collecting plants in the Indiana Dunes all summer and in the autumn had made a collection of mammals in the same region. He asked me to write a paper on the mammals and to present it before the Indiana Academy of Science at the next meeting in December. Who could refuse the request of such a man! It was a happy introduction for me, not only to one who became a valued friend but also to the Indiana Academy of Science with nearly a thousand members, most of whom I was to know personally. It was not merely the Indiana Academy of Science, but, as I learned later, it was Butler's Indiana Academy of Science; for it was Butler who was the prime founder of the Academy, and his fine spirit, his enthusiasm, his love of exact knowledge, and above all his friendliness that made our Academy what it is.

Amos William Butler, zoologist, anthropologist, and sociologist, was born October 1, 1860, at Brookville, Indiana. His parents were among the early pioneers of southeastern Indiana. Brookville lies in the beautiful Whitewater valley. It is not far removed from Cincinnati. Both of these facts probably had a profound effect upon the young Butler. He must have been impressed by the beauties and forces of nature in that valley. Also in Cincinnati there was a group of nature lovers and a natural history society. He was educated in the local schools, including a year or more at Brookville College. Afterwards he attended Hanover College, so beautifully located on the banks of the Ohio, from which many distinguished Hoosiers have been graduated. Later he received an LL.D. from Hanover in 1915. In 1894 he received an A.B. degree from Indiana University, in 1900 an A.M., and in 1922 an LL.D. He was honored by election to Phi Beta Kappa and to Sigma Xi.

As a boy he came in contact with Rufus Haymond, one of the pioneer naturalists of the Ohio Valley, and also with Frank Langdon of Cincinnati. Under the influence of these men and others he began a collection of local birds, which afterwards was added to by collection and exchange from all parts of Indiana, various portions of the United States, and some foreign countries. At its height his collection numbered about five thousand specimens. When I saw them, they were cared for in a special, detached portion of his home in the suburb of Irvington, Indianapolis. He also made a small but no less important



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collection of local mammals. Two mammal finds that he always referred to with special pride were numerous examples of the Lemming Mouse and of the Pigmy Short-Tailed Shrew. At that time both these species were almost unknown, aside from a few scattered specimens.

Among the teachers and friends who influenced Butler in his younger years may be mentioned: J. P. D. John, John M. Coulter, T. A. Wiley, Daniel Kirkwood, Richard Owen, J. M. Wheaton, E. T. Cox, David W. Dennis, J. T. Campbell, Stanley Coulter, Spencer F. Baird, George N. Lawrence, T. M. Brewer, Robert Ridgway, Ruthven Deane, J. A. Allen, Harvey W. Wiley, D. G. Brinton, F. W. Putnam, Otis T. Mason, E. D. Cope, C. V. Riley, C. H. Eigenmann, and B. W. Evermann—all leaders in their respective fields. At Indiana University he came under the inspiring influence of David Starr Jordan. In addition to these personal contacts he carried on an extensive correspondence with American and foreign naturalists. After I became acquainted with Butler, he was one of my best correspondents.

Butler was a born naturalist and loved nature in all its aspects. He was first of all an ornithologist, his earliest papers being devoted to birds, and, strange to say, the first was entitled "Birds Seen in Mexico," because as a youth he had visited that country. He was also interested in the prehistoric remains at San Juan Teotihuacan and published some notes on them. His most important ornithological work, *Birds of Indiana*, a volume of 673 pages, was published in 1898, in the Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Indiana State Geologist for 1897. Ever since its inception he kept accurate notes on the migration, habits, and records of Indiana birds, always with the thought in mind of bringing out a second edition. It was one of the regrets of his life that he was unable to do so. His last ornithological paper was a short note: *Common Tern and Wilson's Phalarope nesting in northern Indiana* (*Auk* 54:390. 1937). An obituary by T. S. Palmer appears in the same volume, pages 573 and 574.

Next to birds came mammals. He published the first state list in 1894, as well as numerous papers about mammalia in the vicinity of Brookville. He also published other shorter papers on Indiana amphibians and reptiles and a special one on snakes.

Butler was a many-sided man. Although natural history was his chief avocation, as he grew older he turned his thoughts to Man, first to the aborigines, so that he became an archeologist of no mean attainments. Then his attention was directed to the living men about him so that in 1898 he became Secretary of the Indiana Board of State Charities on these two conditions: that politics should not enter into the work of the Board, and that he should have a free hand in the selection and discharge of all employees under him. He held this position with credit to himself and honor to the state for a period of twenty-five years, when he voluntarily retired.

This work led him into the study of penology and reformatories in general. It was his firm belief that quick, certain, short sentences were more effective in preventing crime than long drawn out prosecutions with uncertain convictions. Most of his recommendations were incorporated in Indiana statutes which have served as models for several

other states. It was surprising to talk with Butler, the ornithologist, and find him also an expert on prison conditions in Boston and other cities. It is generally felt that charity appeals more to the emotions than to the reason and that there is little in common between the philanthropist and the scientist; Butler, however, brought to his work as Secretary of the Board of State Charities a trained, scientific mind so that he applied science to his sociological activities in the same way that he applied science to his zoology. He was not only nationally but internationally known for his work on penology.

Butler was a great believer in organized science, holding that those who felt alike should meet often and exchange views. He thus early became associated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in his early years he took an active part in it. He was Secretary of Section H in 1886 and of Section F in 1898, General Secretary in 1892, and Vice-President in 1900. It is sad to realize that he died only a few months before the American Association had a very successful meeting in his home city of Indianapolis. He was chairman of the local committee on arrangements but, on account of ill health, did practically no work.

Likewise he early became an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, being advanced a member in 1901. He was ornithologist of the Indiana State Department of Geology and Natural Resources in 1896.

The first record of his participation as organizer of those interested in scientific work dates from 1878 when he was a student at Indiana University and one of the founders of the Owen Scientific Association. In 1881 he was a founder of the Brookville Society of Natural History and in 1882 a charter member of the American Forestry Association. In 1885 he was the chief founder, practically the father, of the Indiana Academy of Science, serving as its secretary for the first eight years of its existence and later becoming president. In 1893 he was chief founder of the Brookville Anthropological Club. In 1898 he was the chief founder of the Indiana Audubon Society, which honored him with a testimonial dinner in 1932. A full account of this dinner and all of the toasts were printed in the *Noblesville Daily Ledger*, volume 45, number 150, June 25, 1932. In 1903 he was a founder of the American Anthropological Society. In 1910 he organized the American Committee on International Prison Congress in Washington. In 1916 he was a founder of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, serving as its president for three years. In 1916 he was a founder of the Indiana Committee on Mental Defectives and in the same year a chief founder of the Indiana Society for Mental Hygiene and afterwards president. In 1919 he was a charter member of the American Society of Mammalogists. He was a member and founder of the International Society of Mental Hygiene and a member of the Sociedad Antonio Alzate of Mexico. He was president of the Indiana State Conference of Charities, 1915, secretary and later president of the American Prison Association, and a member of the U. S. Committee on Observance and Enforcement of Law, 1930-31.

It is beyond mere words to express the character, enthusiasm, and industry of this prominent citizen of Indiana and friend of mankind as

well as of the lowly beasts and birds of the field. He had them all at heart. To know him was to love him. He was a striking and interesting figure at every meeting of the State Academy which he could possibly attend. He regarded it with particular pride and was highly pleased at the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary in Indianapolis in 1935. He stimulated the younger members of the Academy to more and better work. His genial smile and humor will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known him. The versatility of his life is shown by a glance at his bibliography. No one would suspect that Butler, the vertebrate zoologist, was Butler, the penologist. He shone alike in both fields. It is given to but few men to be so versatile and to have such wide interests, starting in boyhood as a naturalist, developing in manhood to one interested in the care of prisoners and of the feeble-minded and the distribution of charities, and yet never losing sight of the wonders of nature.

His home life was a happy one. On June 2, 1880, he was married to Mary Reynolds, of Brookville, Indiana, who like himself was a descendant of early pioneer families. The last few years of his life were marked by ill health, but he never swerved from his ideals and his love of Man and Nature. He died August 5, 1937, after a month's illness. Doctor Butler is survived by his widow, four children, Mrs. Shelley Watts, William Reynolds Butler, Gwyn Foster Butler and Mrs. Merritt Harrison, and eight grandchildren.—*Marcus Ward Lyon, Jr.*

The Brookville Society of Natural History was the first evidence of Butler's organizing ability. Later comes the Indiana Academy of Science. I well remember the long months of persistent work he put into it, the innumerable letters he wrote, the all too frequent statements: "Not interested"—"believe such an organization would be both useless and short lived." But he persisted. The Indiana Academy of Science came into being and was kept alive during its earlier years because he refused to allow it to die. It would not have been born, nor would it have lived, without Dr. Butler's genius for organization. . . .

In the first shock of our sorrow at his passing, we are more apt to recall his *personality*, than his work. We think of what he *was* rather than what he did. . . . So to a kindly, genial man, to my warm personal friend for many years, I pay this tribute—but to a *great* man of wide knowledge, of worthy achievements, serving others at sacrifice, I pay *homage*.—*From a tribute to Dr. Butler, read by Dean Stanley Coulter in the general session of the annual meeting of the Academy, November 5, 1937.*

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In addition to these publications, Dr. Butler prepared the twenty-five Annual Reports of the Board of State Charities of Indiana, for 1898 to 1923, inclusive.

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JOHN B. DUTCHER

Decatur, Indiana,  
July 17, 1875.

Indianapolis, Indiana,  
July 15, 1937.

Professor John B. Dutcher was born on a farm near Decatur, Indiana, July 17, 1875, and died of a heart attack at the Long Hospital, July 15, 1937, lacking but two days of being 62 years of age. Before entering Indiana University as a student in 1904, he had taught in a district school and in the Decatur high school and had studied two years at Tri-State College. He received the A.B. degree in Physics from Indiana University in 1906, the A. M., 1907, and the Ph. D. in 1915, having studied one year while Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Dutcher's entire career should be a lesson to those who feel that one has to have money or a pull to get anywhere in this life. He was a self-made man, meeting all obstacles and trials with determination to overcome them and succeed. And he did succeed. He succeeded in becoming a physics teacher than whom, in the writer's opinion, the state of Indiana has produced none better. He succeeded in building up courses in mechanics, heat, optics, and modern physics the equal of any, anywhere. In spite of lack of adequate funds, he succeeded in equipping a laboratory in the above subjects, far better than many laboratories equipped from apparatus catalogues. Half the apparatus and equipment of his laboratory was designed by him and made in the Physics Department shop.

The University was not slow in recognizing the peculiar qualities which made Professor Dutcher such a successful teacher. He was made an Instructor in Physics in 1907, Assistant Professor in 1909, Associate Professor in 1915, and Professor in 1922, a position he held until his death fifteen years later.

Professor Dutcher was a Methodist, a Mason, member of the American Physical Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, the Indiana Physics Teachers' Association, and the Board of Directors of the University Y. M. C. A., and Director and Vice-President of the Workingmen's Federal Savings and Loan Association. He was a Fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science, always attending the meetings and taking an active part in them.

In Dr. Dutcher's death the Indiana Academy loses a faithful and respected member, the University a brilliant, inspiring, and beloved teacher, and the state an honored citizen.—*Arthur L. Foley.*

## STACY OTTO HAWKINS

Shelby County, Indiana,  
September 6, 1899.

Gainesville, Florida,  
July 10, 1937.

Stacy Otto Hawkins, Assistant Plant Pathologist in the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, died at Gainesville, Florida, July 10, 1937, after a short illness.

He was born in Shelby County, Indiana, on September 6, 1899. His early education was received in the public schools of his home county. He received from Indiana University the A.B. degree in 1923 and the A.M. in 1926. In the meantime he had taught in Marion College and in the Marion High School, Marion, Indiana.

In 1925 Mr. Hawkins was appointed Field Assistant in the Department of Plant Pathology of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and was located at Homestead to study diseases of tomatoes. His work resulted in the development of effective methods of control of the nail-head spot and Phoma rot diseases. In 1931 he was promoted to Assistant Plant Pathologist, and in 1936 he was transferred to Gainesville to work on treatments for the control of seed- and soil-borne diseases.

Mr. Hawkins was a member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Indiana Academy of Science, and the Florida Academy of Science. Papers which bear his name, as author or co-author are: 1925—Some Xylarias of Indiana. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.*, 34:225-29. 1932—Gray leafspot, a new disease of tomatoes. *Florida Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull.*, 249. 1933—Some effects of lightning on tomato plants. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.*, 42:57-59. 1934—Control of Phoma rot of tomatoes. *Florida Agr. Exp. Sta. Press Bull.*, 467. 1937—Experiments for the control of Phoma rot of tomatoes. *Florida Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull.*, 308. (To be published as Bulletin of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.) Tomato diseases in Florida in relation to cultural practices.

## RALPH EMORY NELSON

Fowler, Indiana,  
October 15, 1886.

W. Lafayette, Indiana,  
July 1, 1937.

The death of Ralph Emory Nelson, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Purdue University, took a loyal and distinguished member from the Indiana Academy of Science on July 1, 1937. The son of Charles and Minnie Hinkle Nelson, he was born on a farm near Fowler, Indiana.

Following the usual preparatory education in his home community, he entered Purdue University in 1907 and was graduated from the School of Science in 1911. His teaching career started that fall in the Department of Chemistry, where he served in different positions from laboratory assistant to chairman of the department. He had only recently resigned the latter position, effective the day before he died. Twice during the twenty-six years his work was interrupted, once in 1916 to secure a Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago and again in 1918 to serve as first lieutenant in the Chemical Warfare Service in Washington, D. C., in charge of the machine testing of American and German cannisters for gas masks.

Professor Nelson was an active worker in organic chemistry, reports of joint researches with his graduate students appearing frequently in the Journal of the American Chemical Society. His investigations included molecular rearrangements, general synthetic work, particularly with selenium and vanadium, and the utilization of chlorinated hydrocarbons. At the time of his death he had just finished proof-reading a new book, *An Outline of Organic Chemistry*, written in collaboration with Professors E. F. Degering and J. R. Harrod.

His outstanding contribution to science was his work as a teacher. For two decades it was such that his popularity as an instructor of chemistry has probably not been surpassed at Purdue. Each year he won the admiration and affection of hundreds of students by his sympathetic understanding of people, by his ability to present chemistry interestingly, and by his own example as a man. The basis for this deserved popularity is indicated in the words of a former graduate student: "I have yet to encounter a man having more fine qualities than Dr. Nelson. He was a teacher of rare ability. To appreciate the depth of his knowledge required more than passing acquaintance, for he never attempted a superficial display."

In addition to Professor Nelson's membership in scientific organizations, such as the American Chemical Society, the Indiana Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, and Phi Lambda Upsilon, he was actively affiliated with the Theta Chi Fraternity, the Masons, the Christian Church, the Boy Scouts and the Lions Club. His associates, both in these organizations and in the Purdue Faculty, will treasure a memory of him which has been voiced by one of his fellow-Lions: "He was highly esteemed by the other members for his fine character, even disposition, and balanced judgment. Ever modest and unassuming, tolerant and unprovocative in his opinions, he had no enemies and a wealth of friends."

In the passing of Professor R. E. Nelson hundreds of students have been deprived of a friend, counselor, and worthy example of manhood. Indiana has lost a splendid citizen and Purdue University an outstanding teacher and an alumnus of whom the institution could be proud.

—M. G. Mellen

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*salicylic acid.* (With G. S. Boase.) Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci., 44:135. 1936—*Isomeric monoalkyl ethers of 2-methyl-1,2-propanediol from 1,2-ethoxy-2-methylpropane.* (With C. E. Sparks.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc. 58:671; *1-chloro-2-methyl-2-propanol from 1,2-dichloro-2-methylpropane.* (With C. E. Sparks.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc., 58:1010. *Liquid phase photochemical chlorination of 2-chloro-2-methylpropane and some related compounds.* (With A. O. Rogers.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc., 58:1027; *Reactions and derivatives of 1,2,3-trichloro-2-methylpropane.* (With A. O. Rogers.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc., 58:1029; *Hydrolysis of 1,2-dichloro-2-methylpropane.* (With J. M. Hersh.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc., 58:1631; *3-chloro-2-methylallyl alcohol.* (With O. A. Rogers.) U. S. Patent No. 2,061,519. 1937—Textbook—"An Outline of Organic Chemistry," Barnes and Noble Co. (With E. F. Degering and J. R. Harrod.) 1938—*The action of selenium tetrachloride on some esters of salicylic acid.* (With E. F. Degering and J. A. Bilderback.) Jour. Amer. Chem. Soc., 60:1239.

## WILL SCOTT

Houston, Indiana,  
April 20, 1877.

Indianapolis, Indiana,  
October 17, 1937.

The innate fineness of character and simplicity of manner which were typical of Will Scott and which endeared him to all make it difficult to write these words. Dr. Scott's early academic training at Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, qualified him as a high school teacher, and for several years he taught in the New Augusta and Bloomington High Schools. His first association with Indiana University came in 1902 when he enrolled in the summer session at the Biological Station, which he subsequently attended each summer until 1907. He received the A.B. and A.M. degrees in 1908 and the Ph.D. degree in 1911. His first university appointment, as a Fellow in Zoology engaged in a study of cave plankton, was granted in 1907, and from that time until his death he held the following university positions: instructor, 1908-1911; assistant professor, 1911-1919; associate professor, 1919-1921; professor, 1921-1937. He was appointed director of the Biological Station in 1920. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, American Society of Zoologists, Ecological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Indiana Academy of Science. He served as president of the last named in 1935.

Dr. Scott's first scientific publication was an "Ecological Study of the Plankton of Shawnee Cave," and his viewpoint in all his succeeding scientific work remained primarily that of an ecologist. The late Dean Eigenmann influenced his early biological training, but Dr. Scott also developed independently a very broad outlook on problems of freshwater biology. Much of his research in later years was devoted to various aspects of lake and river morphometry and sedimentation, as well as more strictly biological phenomena. As director of the Biological Station, Dr. Scott could be in the field during the summer months, and he was also given assistance by the State Department of Conservation, which enabled him on numerous occasions to send students on extensive surveys of the lake and river systems of the state. This study finally was the basis for detailed data on nearly one hundred lakes. At the time of his death he was engaged in a study of fish scales and egg counts in game fishes, in order that age might be correlated with rates of growth and reproduction under various field conditions. According to his own statement, his research interest was twofold: "An analysis of the physical, chemical, and biological conditions in the freshwater habitat,"

and "the various factors which influenced productivity in fresh water." Throughout all his work he was concerned with the practical application of his data, but his scientific philosophy can best be summarized by a statement which he wrote about a year ago: "I have always maintained that the best practical results are those incidental to general studies."

Dr. Scott was quite informal in his teaching and endeavored to reach the superior student rather than the average undergraduate. This, consequently, was an obstacle in some cases for those who were introduced to biology for the first time, but an advanced student found in this informality the stimulus which can result only from a delightful personal contact. Dr. Scott drew his lecture material from his personal experience as well as from a wide knowledge of diverse fields, and the conservative way in which he presented his information remains as an ideal scientific attitude to challenge his colleagues. Will Scott exerted a profound influence upon the development of not only his own students, but also all those who came to know him during their formative years as graduate students. A kindness which dulled the sharp edge of criticism and a willingness to help at any time were characteristics of the man.

A consideration of Dr. Scott's contributions to science and the University precludes any extensive reference of a more personal nature. Suffice it to say, however, that he gave unselfishly of time and energy to his community, and that there are many who feel the loss of his personal friendship more keenly than they do his loss to science. He cared little for personal reward and nothing at all for ostentation, and he leaves to us the memory of excellent scientific achievement which was mellowed by a gracious personality.—*W. R. Breneman.*