

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN (1853 – 1932)

Barton Warren Evermann was born in Monroe County, Iowa on October 24, 1853 and died in Berkeley, California on September 27, 1932. He graduated from the University of Indiana with the degree of B. S. in 1886 receiving in 1888 the advanced degree of A. M., and in 1891 that of Ph.D. He was later given the honorary degree of LL.D. from that institution and the same from the University of Utah. While a student in Butler University he came under the influence of David Starr Jordan, from whose inspiration he came to devote his life work to the field of Natural History, more especially Zoology. The close association and intimate friendship with Dr. Jordan continued throughout his life, the two collaborating in many important publications in Ichthyology. For ten years previous to his graduation he was a successful teacher in the public schools of Indiana and California. He served as Professor of Biology in the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute from 1886 to 1891, where he inspired students and teachers alike with his tireless enthusiasm, sincerity, and high ideals. His marked ability in research and administration led to his being called to the work of the Bureau of Fisheries in Washington, where he occupied such positions of honor and responsibility as Ichthyologist, 1891-1914, Chief of the Division of Statistics and Methods of Fisheries, 1902-1903, Assistant in Charge of Scientific Inquiry, 1903-1910, Chief of the Alaska Fisheries Service, 1910-1914, U. S. Fur Seal Commissioner 1892, and Chairman of the Fur Seal Board 1908-1914. During this period he was also Lecturer in Zoology in Cornell University 1900-1903, and in Yale University from 1903 to 1906, and was Vice President of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia from 1906 to 1910.

In 1914 he came to California as Director of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The total loss of the museum, scientific collections, and library through the earthquake and fire of 1906 had seriously crippled that institution. Under Dr. Evermann's leadership it has been built up to a degree quite beyond its previous development. The habitat groups of Mammals and Birds in the Museum in Golden Gate Park, planned by him, are recognized as the best to be found in any museum, while the scientific collections resulting from many expeditions to the lands in and bordering upon the Pacific Ocean are of the greatest value; and the twenty-five volumes of studies upon them, issued by him and his colleagues during his administration, testify to his zeal for the advancement of knowledge.

To his personal influence may be ascribed the endowment of the Steinhart Aquarium through the munificence of Mr. Ignaz Steinhart and to his skilled guidance, technical knowledge and judgment are due its erection and subsequent development. The educational value to the public of the Museum and the Aquarium was ever uppermost in Dr. Evermann's thoughts and was furthered by him in every possible way. Over one million visitors annually pass through their portals and enjoy and profit by the exhibits while active cooperation with the public schools extends their educational value and usefulness. Dr. Evermann's natural gifts as a teacher and inspirer of the young student made his frequent, personally-conducted groups memorable to the participants.

As Lecturer in Zoology 1893 to 1894 and from 1926 on until death terminated his services, Dr. Evermann entered the life of Stanford University and became a valued and honored member of its faculty, though his non-resident relation prevented many of our number from knowing him. But to those with whom he was brought into contact he became a valued friend. His broad scientific training, his marked ability as a teacher and investigator, his sound judgment, his sincerity and cordiality of manner, his far-reaching sympathy and human interest

endeared him to all with whom he was associated. Though gone from our midst, his work remains. We cherish his memory.