

His own published studies were confined chiefly to the Crinoidea. He is known to students of the Crinoidea for his valuable work on the Trenton crinoidal fauna of Ontario. Walter R. Billings during the period from 1881 to 1887 described in the Transactions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, several new species and one new genus from Ottawa and Belleville.

During this period Billings took an active part in the excursions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club sharing the leadership of field parties with such naturalists as James Fletcher, J. F. Whiteaves, W. R. Ells and H. M. Ami.

Many important additions to the knowledge of the Crinoidea have been made by Dr. Bather from studies of material collected by W. R. Billings. The very valuable collection of fossils left by Mr. Billings has been presented to the Canadian Geological Survey by his sister, Miss Myra, in accordance with his wishes. Besides the crinoids described by Billings, it includes much valuable material from other groups of fossils and many specimens from other countries.

Billings was always ready to place at the disposal of visiting geologists his intimate knowledge of collecting localities in the Ottawa district. Many geologists have been indebted to him for guidance to the interesting localities for collecting near Ottawa.

Palaeontology was as already stated an avocation with Walter R. Billings. He represented a type of man far too rare in Canada but more common in England, who finds the time and shows the ability to make worthy contributions to pure science while following a profession in no way allied to the science in which he delves.

Walter Billings was a man of broad interests and for many years took a keen interest in athletics. In his younger days he took an active part in the water sports for which Ottawa is noted. Many of his vacations were spent on his luxuriously furnished house boat.

The palaeontological studies of Walter R. Billings had enabled him to "peer far back into the night of time" but he claimed no such insight into the future as the great majority of men believe they have. His keen analytical mind had given him little if any knowledge of the uncharted seas of the Great Beyond. He was too frank and honest a man to lay claim to knowledge or beliefs which he had never acquired. It was therefore in deference to his modest views regarding the limitations of the human mind that the ceremonies usually observed, were omitted at the passing of Walter R. Billings. In his request that his remains be cremated we glimpse the fact that his concern was more for the welfare of those he left behind than for himself.

E. M. KINDLE.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The library of McGill University has been enriched by a collection of text books, monographs, and sets of periodicals (in English, French, Italian and German) devoted to birds; constituting the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology. This library, the gift of Colonel Casey A. Wood of Chicago, to his Alma Mater, will be endowed by the donor, and is intended to serve not only as a reference collection for the use of college students and research workers but it will be available, so far as its more popular books are concerned, to readers, interested in birds, outside the University precincts.

It may be added that Dr. Casey Wood is an old Ottawa boy, having graduated as prizeman from the Collegiate Institute about 1875. He visited the Capital in 1918 as representative of the Surveyor General of the U. S. Army on a tour of inspection of our hospitals and other institutions engaged in the rehabilitation of our disabled soldiers. Col. Wood has retired from practice and is now engaged, in California, on the Medical and Surgical (Ameri-

can) History of the War and other literary tasks. He was the Secretary of the Committee that published the Anniversary Volumes dedicated to the late Sir William Osler.

In 1917, just before Dr. Wood took up his military duties he published his *Fundus Oculi of Birds*. This is an important study of a neglected subject. It is profusely illustrated with a wealth of coloured plates and line drawings and is a most valuable addition to avian anatomy in general and bird optics in particular. It also offers suggestions that may be of great value in the classification of birds.

NOTES ON SOME OF THE MORE COMMON ANIMALS AND BIRDS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES. By William Spreadborough. *Canadian Alpine Journal*, Vol. X., 1919, pp. 51-65. Mr. Spreadborough, the veteran naturalist and field collector, who has spent nearly every summer for the past thirty years with field parties of the Geological Survey of Canada, accompanying Mr. James McEvoy, Professor John Macoun, and the late Mr. James M. Macoun,