

OBITUARY.

CHARLES SCHUCHERT.

Professor CHARLES SCHUCHERT died November 20, 1942, after a long life full of honor and of eminent service to his chosen science and to his fellow men.

He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the third of July, 1858, of German parentage, for his father, Philip Schuchert, came from Hesse-Warsaw and his mother, Agatha Müller, from Franconia in the general region of Frankfort. Philip was a furniture manufacturer in Cincinnati and Charles was apparently destined for the same sort of career, leaving school as he did at 14 to enter the factory.

The region round about Cincinnati, with its abundant fossil-bearing localities, very soon attracted young Charles and he early began collecting, thus stimulating yet further a growing interest and serving as the initial beginning of a career which was to make him one of the greatest paleontologists of his time. Aside from a love of music and active participation in a singing society in his younger days, his scientific interests seemed to fill completely his daily life to the exclusion of any other diversion. He lived and died a bachelor.

Schuchert's collecting activities brought him to the attention of Dr. E. O. Ulrich, who, though only a year his senior, had, through the advantage of collegiate training, already made an initial start and was paleontologist to the geological surveys of Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois. To him Schuchert went as an assistant, serving from 1885 to 1889. In 1889 Schuchert became an aid to the renowned Dr. James Hall of Albany, whose interest in the young man was aroused by Schuchert's already growing brachiopod collection, which Hall saw in Cincinnati. Work with James Hall aided in enhancing the reputation of the young paleontologist, so that after three years in Albany he received the additional appointment to the New York Mineralogical and Geological Survey. The years 1892 and 1893 saw Schuchert at Yale, as assistant to Professor Charles E. Beecher. During this time he prepared some of the Peabody Museum's finest slabs of invertebrate fossils, giving promise of the eminent service which he was to give that institution in later years. In 1893, however, Schuchert was called to Washington as assistant paleontologist to the United States Geological Survey, and after one year became Assistant Curator of Stratigraphic Paleontology in the U. S. National Museum, in charge of the Paleozoic invertebrates, a position which he filled with distinction until he was called to Yale in 1904.

In Washington Schuchert's duties were mainly curatorial, collecting in various localities in the United States and Canada, and installing some of the first exhibits in paleontology in the National Museum. In 1894 Schuchert prepared a brief but comprehensive pamphlet, "Directions for Collecting and Preserving Fossils." One year (1897) saw him in Greenland with Peary where important collections of fishes and molluscs were made near Disko Island, as well as fossil plants from the Cretaceous and Tertiary of Northern Greenland.

Stratigraphy early attracted Schuchert's attention for the years 1901 and 1902 saw him making collections in Canada and in New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, securing data for fixing more definitely the line separating the Silurian and Devonian systems in America.

We soon find record of perhaps the first of his great acts of generosity, for in the Smithsonian report for 1903 is this entry, under accessions in invertebrate paleontology: "Some 10,000 brachiopods, 4200 bryozoans, many Cretaceous forms from New Jersey and cystids and crinoids from Maryland, comprizing the private collection of Mr. Charles Schuchert, assistant in stratigraphic paleontology, were donated by him to the Museum."

In August, 1903, Schuchert attended the International Geological Congress at Vienna as a delegate from the National Museum. This gave additional opportunity for travel in the Baltic area, Russia, and England. While in Russia he selected a series of Lower Silurian fossils from the collections of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. This series was presented to the National Museum.

He resigned from the National Museum to accept the call to Yale, this time to succeed the late Charles E. Beecher as Curator of the Geological Collections in the Peabody Museum, Professor of Paleontology in the University and of Historical Geology in the Sheffield Scientific School. Of this last title Schuchert was especially proud. In the Museum the department of geology was one of the three established by the original deed of gift of the founder, George Peabody, in 1866, with Professors O. C. Marsh and Charles E. Beecher as its curators before Charles Schuchert. The curator of geology also had general charge of the Museum but without the title of director. To all of these duties Professor Schuchert gave a full measure of his energy, besides carrying on research of the highest importance to the advancement of his chosen sciences.

In 1923 the old department of geology in the Museum was divided into the two fields of paleontology, and Doctor Schuchert's title was changed to that of Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, which he held together with his professorial titles until his final retirement

in 1926. He was made professor and curator emeritus in 1926 and, because of his long and faithful service, was given the further title of director emeritus of the Peabody Museum in 1938 on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Schuchert also served as a trustee of the Museum from 1904 to 1925, when the individual members resigned in favor of the Yale Corporation and the Museum became an integral department of the university. Schuchert acted as secretary of the Museum trustees during his incumbency.

Yet another important service was that of associate editor of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE*, which lasted from 1918 to 1939 when he withdrew at his own request and was succeeded by his pupil, Dr. Carl O. Dunbar. Schuchert's service to the *JOURNAL* was of the utmost value, in advice, timely articles, and, especially, his reviews of current literature which often took the form of discussions which added much to the progress of science.

Schuchert's research covered at least three somewhat different aspects of geology—invertebrate paleontology, especially of the brachiopods, stratigraphy, and the paleogeography of North America from the beginning of the Cambrian time to the Recent. The basis for this work was not only his own field and museum studies, but those of every other research worker whose publications could in any way bear upon the problem. All the data thus received were painstakingly recorded on a large series of maps and the indicated limits of land and sea drawn in until the varying shape of the North American continent appeared as it was in each successive phase of geologic history. The painstaking accuracy and wise interpretation of data has made Schuchert's paleogeographic maps authoritative in the highest degree.

Schuchert soon began to attract graduate students to Yale for advanced work in stratigraphy and paleontology. These young men he aided in every possible way, not only in training in the sciences of which he was master, but in sending them into the field to collect data and materials for their theses, often paying all their expenses, for he was one of the most generous of men. In the Sheffield Scientific School, Schuchert taught to class after class of undergraduates the science of historical geology, one outcome of which was the writing of a textbook, first with Pirsson and later with Dunbar; a book which has gone through several editions and has become a classic in that branch of science.

Schuchert was particularly interested in the Paleozoic geology of the Maritime Provinces and the region about the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He began this work with the late John M. Clarke in 1900 and continued it, with his students, for thirty years, studying and describing nearly every important section in this region.

The brachiopods which first attracted the youthful Charles were

always his chief interest and, in spite of having given 10,000 of them to the U. S. National Museum, the collection continued to grow under his care until it became one of the largest and finest assemblages of brachiopods in the world, numbering some 100,000 and including a great number of types and rare examples. These, with characteristic generosity, were willed to Yale, together with his library and much of his estate.

Schuchert's bibliography, which will be recorded in detail elsewhere, includes at least 230 titles, of which some 20 per cent pertained to stratigraphy, as many more to paleontology, 9 or 10 per cent to paleogeography, paleoclimatology and the like. He also wrote nearly half a hundred memorials which showed a keen insight into the evaluation of the labors of his fellow workers in science.

In view of his humble beginning, without the intellectual and social background of most of his colleagues, Schuchert's rise to greatness in position and intellectual worth was phenomenal. This has been attested by the many honors which he received in his lifetime—degrees from New York University, Harvard, and Yale; gold medals from the National Academy of Sciences, of which he was long a fellow, the Geological Society of America, and the American Philosophical Society; and membership in many learned bodies both here and abroad.

He sleeps in honored memory in the historic Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven beside his distinguished predecessor, Othniel C. Marsh, a fitting final association of two of the most noted of the brilliant list of the scientific men of Yale.

RICHARD SWANN LULL.