



THE SOCIETY'S "EMINENT ECOLOGIST"

Dr. A. H. Wright

Albert Hazen Wright was born August 15, 1879, in Hamlin, Monroe County, New York. In his early youth, his grandparents and an uncle began encouraging his interest in nature. At the age of fourteen he came under the influence of Samuel Howard Burnett (late professor of Veterinary Science at Cornell), who taught him the scientific names of the local spring flowers as well as the derivations of those names. In 1899 he was graduated from Brookport State Normal, where he had learned many more species of plants while working with student herbaria.

He taught district school for a year before entering Cornell in 1900. At that time he was interested in law, history, library work, and botany.

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He concentrated on the latter course for three years, but changed his major to zoology during his senior year.

He has been at Cornell University for 55 consecutive years, having received his A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees there and having become an Emeritus Professor of Zoology after 43 years of service to the institution.

In 1910 he married Anna Allen (Cornell, 1909), and together they have traveled the country widely, seeking to collect live specimens of every species of the amphibians and reptiles in the United States. They have secured 12,000 photographs of these live subjects, and many of them have been used to illustrate Comstock Press' four-volume **Handbook of Natural History**. Dr. Wright has served as advisory editor in these publications, which include handbooks on frogs, lizards, turtles, and a forthcoming one on snakes.

Dr. Wright is also the author of many papers. He has tried to visit the type locality of every vertebrate animal in the U.S.A., and has observed not only amphibians and reptiles, but also most fish, birds, and mammals in their natural locations. Both he and Mrs. Wright have continued their interest in plants and have observed and collected those as well as animals. They are authors of **The Vegetation of the Okefinokee Swamp**.

Dr. Wright has many avocations. In floriculture he made a collection of 150 varieties of peonies and 300 different dwarf bearded irises, and he has been a member of the Bailey Hortorium Board from the time of its inception. In history he has published a series of **Studies in History**, No. 1-16, has finished five more not yet in print, and has served as a member of Cornell's Archives Board. He has also assisted in issuing a book on genealogy and is interested in bibliographical work. He has written four other books not yet in print: **Published Maps of New York State, 1800-1940**; **History of Okefinokee Swamp, Vol. II**; **Roster of General Sullivan's Army in 1779**; **Snake Stories as Told by North American Travelers to 1850**.

Dr. Wright is a fellow in several of the twenty biological, historical, and geographical societies to which he belongs. He has served on the National Research Council and its Conservation Committee, was president of the Gamma Alpha scientific society, was on the editorial board of **ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS**, and recently has been elected an honorary fellow of the Academy of Zoology in India. As a teacher he has probably helped to train as many biologists, naturalists, conservationists, ecologists, ichthyologists, herpetologists, and mammalogists as has any one in the last two generations.

In consideration of his life work in many fields of study, research, and teaching and of his high character as a teacher, scientist, and man, the Ecological Society of America is proud to award Dr. Wright its title of **Eminent Ecologist**.