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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DOCTOR GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

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George Radford Mayfield, first Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, was born at Lawrenceville, Georgia, March 21, 1877. After the usual preliminary schooling, he attended Emory University at Atlanta and received his B.A. degree there in 1900. After teaching in a preparatory school for three years, he entered Vanderbilt University, receiving his A.M. degree in 1904 and accepted a position in Vanderbilt's Department of Classical Languages. He subsequently taught German and French there until his retirement in 1947. In 1915, he received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt.

With the advent of World War I, Dr. Mayfield was appointed to do educational work with the French army. He remained there for the duration of the war and later, entered Germany with the French army of occupation. Since that time he has made a number of trips to Europe, returning from the last one in July, 1950.

He is a member of various scientific and learned societies in addition to the Tennessee Academy of Science, including the American Ornithologists' Union, Wilson Ornithological Club, Tennessee Ornithological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, and others. He is vice-president of the Nashville Children's Museum. He has been active in the Academy since his return from war services, frequently presenting papers for its programs. When it was decided in 1926, to inaugurate a quarterly official organ, Dr. Mayfield was chosen by the Academy's Council to become Editor and he produced the first three volumes. During this period, the Academy was actively assisting in the movement for the creation of a National Park in the Great Smoky Mountains and "The Great Smokies Special Issue" was gotten out to tell of the remarkable fauna and flora to be found there. Hundreds of extra copies were printed and circulated and doubtless assisted very materially in bringing about consumation of this splendid project.

Dr. Mayfield's specialty in the field of science is ornithology. He has been an ardent devotee of the study of birds for the past fifty years. In 1915 he was one of a group of five (Ganier, Hughes, Merritt, Webb and himself) who founded the Tennessee Ornitho-

logical Society, an organization which has endured and which has been the most productive state society of its kind in published bird



DOCTOR GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

study findings. Mayfield has held various offices in the T. O. S., including the presidency, 1920-21. He is an active field worker and an authority on bird song and bird migration.

His interest in the out-of-doors led to his appointment as a member of the State Conservation Commission in 1939, when he served first as Chairman and later as Secretary. The work and advice of this body was largely instrumental in producing the present efficient Department of Conservation. At the present time he is directing his energy to writing for publication on various nature topics and is outdoor columnist for *The Nashville Banner*.

Dr. Mayfield was married to Miss Lillie Hasslock in 1920 and she has shared his interest in the out-of-doors. They have one son, George Jr., now a student in the School of Medicine at Vanderbilt University. Their home is at 2414 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, Tennessee.

NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

On April 8 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, a symposium on radiation was held in conjunction with the installation of the University of Tennessee Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi. This symposium, emphasizing atomic energy and its effect on the sciences and scientific outlook, included talks on physics, chemistry, biology, and engineering. An imposing number of prominent investigators and directors took part in the meeting; among them Dr. Philip M. Morse, of MIT and the Brookhaven National Laboratory; Dr. W. H. Brown of the Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago; Dr. B. P. Kaufmann of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. G. G. Brown, director of engineering for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and Dr. S. C. Lind, member of the Board of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Dr. George A. Baitseil, Executive Secretary of Sigma Xi and Yale University zoologist, presented the new charter. The principal address of the installation was delivered by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. R. F. Kimball, member of the staff of the Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, spoke before the Biology Seminar at Vanderbilt University on April 28, discussing his investigations of radiation action upon Paramecium.

On April 27 at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, the third Millikan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Wallace O. Fenn of the Department of Physiology, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Fenn's subject was "Recent Advances in the Study of Respiration."

Also at Vanderbilt University, the annual Sigma Xi initiation address for the Vanderbilt Chapter, was delivered by Dr. Robert L. VanPelt, the educational director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. The subject of the address was "Industrial Research at the Battelle Institute."

The Barnard Astronomical Club, meeting in the Vanderbilt University Theatre on May 19, heard an address on the subject of "Comets," by Professor Georges Van Biesbroeck, Astronomer of the Yerkes and McDonald Observatories of the University of Chicago and the University of Texas. At a Physics Seminar on the same day, Dr. Van Biesbroeck spoke on the subject of "Tests of Relativity Theory at Solar Eclipses." Dr. Van Biesbroeck has just returned from a visit to the Belgian Congo.

On August 24, Dr. Philip P. Cohen of the Department of Physiological Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, gave a seminar at the Biology Division, ORNL, on the subject "The Mechanism of Urea Synthesis."

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