

**GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE
TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE¹**

A. F. GANIER

Nashville, Tennessee

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 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 and was Head of the German Department when he retired 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

¹This biography of Dr. Mayfield has been slightly modified from that published in the October, 1950, number of the Journal.

made a number of trips to Europe, returning from the last one in July, 1952.

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, of which he is a Fellow, Phi Beta Kappa, and others. He is one of the founders and a long-time 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 consummation 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 Ornithological Society, an organization which has endured and which has been the most productive state society of its kind in published bird 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 songs 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. He was appointed a second time to the Commission in 1953 by Governor Frank Clement and serves as Chairman. Just recently he was presented with the coveted Conservation Plaque which is awarded by the Woodmen of the World for outstanding service to the cause of Conservation. At the present time he is directing his energy to lecturing and 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.