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THE CONTRIBUTION OF ZOOLOGY TO HUMAN WELFARE¹

AT the Philadelphia meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Convocation Week, 1914–15, there was held, under the auspices of the American Society of Naturalists, a symposium entitled “The Value of Zoology to Humanity.” I was, unfortunately, very busy with the affairs of the general association and was unable to attend this symposium. There were four papers presented. The first of these is printed in SCIENCE for March 5, 1915, and is entitled “The Cultural Value of Zoology.” The address was given by Professor E. G. Conklin, of Princeton. It is a very readable address, full of interest, containing much of that delicate humor characteristic of Professor Conklin, and possibly rises nearly to the exact height demanded by the title. But it is not a zoological address, in spite of its title. It is broader, and comprehends all biology. It is divided into two headings: (1) “Contributions of Biology to Education”; (2) “Contributions of Biology to Civilization.” Under the first heading he dwells upon the immense enthusiasm and intense concentration of the biologist in his work, touching upon the evil effects of over-specialization and referring to the few great leaders in biology who have become interpreters to the plain people—men like Huxley, Galton, Metchnikoff and Forel, who have applied the teachings of biology to social problems.

¹ Read before Section F (Zoology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in a Symposium upon “The Contributions of Zoology to Human Welfare,” Pittsburgh, Pa., December 31, 1917.

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