MEDALS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PRESENTATION OF THE DANIEL GIRAUD ELLIOT MEDAL AND HONORARIUM TO RICHARD SWANN LULL

THOUGH I was not a member of the committee that made this award, I heartily concur in the propriety of it, and am especially glad that the long-continued and admirable labors of Professor Lull are receiving recognition which, though belated, will undoubtedly be welcome.

The award is made especially for the monograph on “The Horned Dinosauria or Ceratopsia,” which is a very comprehensive and thorough piece of work. After an introduction on the stratigraphy of the formations in which remains of these incredible monsters have been discovered, and a section on their geographical distribution, which ranges from Mongolia to South America, the body of the work is given up to a description of the material scattered through the various museums of the United States and Canada. Then follows a description of the habitats and manner of life of these great reptiles, upon the problems of which much light was thrown by the Mongolian discoveries, the American Museum expeditions having collected several nests of Protoceratops, a small dinosaur of this group, in which many eggs were found just as they had been left by the mothers. Some of these were near to hatching and contained recognizable embryonic skeletons. Then finally there is a discussion of the evolution of this group throughout the Upper Cretaceous period, in which the great quantity of material is marshalled in an orderly way and their mutual systematic relations admirably discussed.

It should be added that the committee also had in mind the great body of Professor Lull’s work on fossil mammals and his artistic achievements in the way of restoring these long-vanished creatures.

It is to me a particular pleasure to recognize the fine Yale tradition in vertebrate paleontology, which