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WILLIAM BATESON

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WITH the recovery of Mendel's paper a new era in the study of heredity began. Bateson at once became a recognized leader in the new movement. His earlier work on variation had supplied him with a wealth of material that only waited the clue that Mendel's theory afforded, and his experimental work on discontinuous variations, that had already started before 1900, had prepared him for the acceptance and realization of the profound significance of the new theory.

The ardor with which Bateson undertook to apply, test and extend Mendel's discovery, the keenness that he brought to bear on the new work, and the complete frankness with which he discussed "unconformable cases" had a wide influence on the rapidly growing school of genetics.

He did not try to hide his contempt for second-rate work, and he was unsparing in the exposure of the pretensions of those who were satisfied with lower standards. This sometimes led to acrimonious rejoinders, but it put fear into the hearts of those who continued to use an outworn phraseology of variation and heredity that no longer had any real significance. He hit and he hit hard! If he disagreed he said so flatly, and could always give a cogent argument for his disagreement. His intellectual rectitude was beyond all praise and recognized by friend and foe alike. His courtesy and hospitality were unflinching, and he will be missed by a host of admirers, and regretted, I can not but think, by those of his opponents who found him a foeman worthy of their steel.

His own work extended the fundamental principles of genetics in many directions. The more difficult the problem the more it attracted him if it offered an opportunity for exact experimental investigation. The perseverance with which he followed every clue—"treasure your exceptions," he said—and the high standards of work that he insisted on for himself as well as for others made a deep impression on his colleagues. His death came suddenly in the midst of his labors, and students of genetics the world over have felt deeply the loss of a friend of outstanding intellect and commanding personality.

Bateson's first important contribution dealt with material collected in this country in 1883. He had seen an announcement in the Johns Hopkins University circular that *Balanoglossus* had been found at the Marine Station, then situated at Hampton, Virginia, and wrote to Brooks asking permission to

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