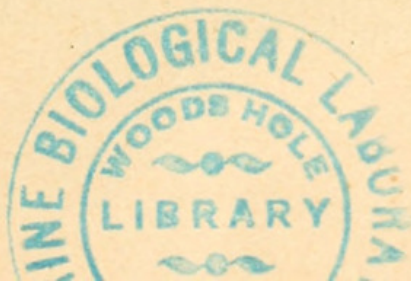


OBITUARY, O. C. MARSH.

OTHNIEL CHARLES MARSH, professor of palæontology in Yale University, New Haven, vertebrate palæontologist of the United States Geological Survey and president of the National Academy of Sciences from 1883 to 1895, a past president of the American Association for the advancement of science, corresponding member of learned and scientific societies in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Denmark, died in his sixty-eighth year at his residence, New Haven, Connecticut, after a brief illness. Prof. Marsh was one of the most brilliant and distinguished palæontologists in the world.

He was educated at Yale, Berlin, Heidelberg and Breslau. He achieved a vast amount of work before he died and had in his hands a very large amount of material to describe and illustrate had the untimely hand of death not snatched him, as if in an instant, from his favourite studies and researches. Honours were showered upon him by the Institut de France, the Geological Society of London and other distinguished bodies.

Prof. Marsh crossed the Rocky Mts. twenty-one times, visited the Alps and Hills of Germany and carried on many explorations in the Western portion of the New World. He brought to light more than 1,000 species of extinct vertebrates, birds with teeth, flying reptiles, two new orders of mammals, the earliest monkeys and bats in the New World and series of specimens illustrating the evolution of the horse, together with the discovery of gigantic reptiles, dinosaurs, both carnivorous and herbivorous are to be numbered amongst his best known finds. He has left a monument behind him of great importance and significance. The vast amount of treasures he had gathered during the forty-five years of his active life, when properly housed and cared for and exhibited to advantage, as we trust it will be ere long, will form a magnificent series which will illustrate a most important phase of the past history of North America in an admirable manner.



The earliest paper which appeared from the pen of Prof. Marsh related to the minerals of Nova Scotia. In writing of Prof. Marsh's work, Dr. Charles E. Beecher says :

"His three mineralogical papers, published between 1861 and 1867, show the results of considerable labour and careful investigation. They treat of the gold of Nova Scotia, a Zeolite mineral from the same region and a catalogue of the Mineral Localities of the Maritime Provinces of Canada."

The following papers specially relating to Canada are here extracted from the "Bibliography" prepared by Dr. Beecher and kindly communicated to me :

1861 "*The Gold of Nova Scotia.*" Amer. Journal of Science (2) vol. 32 pp. 395-400.

1862 "*On the Saurian Vertebræ from Nova Scotia*" Ibid. vol. 43 p. 278.

"*Description of the Remains of a New Enaliosaurian (Eosaurus Acadianus) from the Coal Formation of Nova Scotia.*" Ibid. vol. 34, pp. 1-16, pls. I.-II.

1863 "*Catalogue of Mineral Localities in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.*" Ibid. vol. 35, pp. 210-218.

1867 "*Contributions to the Mineralogy of Nova Scotia.*" Ibid. vol. 44, pp. 362-367. No. 1. *Ledererite* identical with *Gmelinite*.

Prof. Marsh was one of the leading contributors to the American Journal of Science and his writings certainly did much to add zest and interest to that publication.

His genial and courteous manner as well as characteristic good nature won for him a vast concourse of friends and admirers on both sides of the Atlantic. We shall long miss his beaming countenance and striking individuality.

The "Bibliography" of Prof. O. C. Marsh as prepared by Dr. Beecher for the American Journal of Science, 4th Series, Vol VII, pp. 420-428 is most complete and shows clearly what a master mind the subject of this brief sketch possessed. I shall close with words from Dr. Beecher's pen. (loc. cit. p. 419.)

"In closing the outline of the discoveries made by this investigator one cannot help being impressed with their signal brilliancy, their great number and especially by their unique importance in the field of organic evolution. Were all other evidence lost or wanting the law of evolution would still have a firm foundation in incontrovertible facts. The study of variation and Embryology in recent animals gives hints as to the truth, but Palæontology alone can give the facts of descent." H. M. AMI.



Ami, Henry M. 1899. "O. C. Marsh [Obituary]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 13(5), 135–136.

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