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OF

VERNON LYMAN KELLOGG

1867-1937

BY

C. E. McCLUNG

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*Sherman Kellogg*

## VERNON LYMAN KELLOGG

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BY C. E. MCCLUNG

Dates, places and events are easy to record and in the life of a man have their significance, but his nature is not revealed thereby. When the time comes to make a record of the real character of one of our friends, we are always oppressed with the inadequacy of our understanding and the feebleness of our expression. David Starr Jordan with two large volumes tried, in "The Days of a Man," to show what it was that made him the man he became. His friend and disciple, Vernon Lyman Kellogg, whose contribution to Jordan's development is so fully recorded therein, leaves for himself no such delineation of character. It remains for us who knew him to do what we can to estimate and record his life and achievements. Such a brief notice as this, however, can serve no further purpose than to anticipate a fuller record which doubtless will be forthcoming.

To the University of Kansas, in the translated New England town of Lawrence, came the young Kellogg in 1885. Here, in this infant institution, he was thrown intimately into contact, as student, assistant and secretary, with scholarly, New England-trained Francis H. Snow, the newly elected Chancellor and an enthusiastic entomologist. They became firm friends and the association proved profitable in every way to Kellogg.

The beginning of his work at Kansas University is characteristic of his whole career. Always the opportunity for the next step—always the ability to utilize it. These opportunities were many and varied and called for a wide range of qualifications—social, scientific, linguistic, humanitarian. But underlying all these qualities and making their application easy and effective was a personality so pleasing, adaptive, persuasive and charming that opposition usually failed to develop. No matter what the type of work that engaged Kellogg's attention, the course of events was much the same. In part this facility of operation resulted from his habit of inconspicuousness. In most of his endeavors he associated himself with some strong and outstanding personality which occupied the public eye and took the

blame or the credit for what resulted. Kellogg meanwhile pursued his studied course, fully aware of the practical bearings of his policies and of the reactions which they awakened. With infinite tact and an uncanny appreciation of personalities, he quietly pursued his way, arousing little opposition and creating no ill feeling. If opposition developed and proved obdurate he did not stress his position, but put the matter aside until a more favorable opportunity. In the event that delay did not improve his chance of success, he made no further effort.

The years at Lawrence were busy ones, but he had time to make many friends—Chancellor Snow, an enthusiast of indefatigable vigor; S. W. Williston, a man of profound understanding and high scientific ideals—an authority in such diverse fields as vertebrate paleontology and dipterology; E. C. Franklin, later a colleague at Stanford, a man of high ideals and achievements; and E. E. Slosson, a writer on scientific subjects of unusual literary ability. The University was young and in the formative stage, with no hindering traditions. Kellogg was free to go his own way and took full advantage of the opportunity. This way led him to activities beyond the campus limits. He wrote for the local paper a column on birds and this led to reportorial work and even to editorial efforts. Thus his urge to write, which later became engrossing, early manifested itself. A desire to travel, which was not so easily satisfied in those days, led to frequent trips to Colorado and elsewhere. Human interest in all his occupations was prominent, whether in efforts to attract people to the study of birds, to protect them from the attacks of injurious insects, or to show them the possible influence of biology in human life. All in all, these years sketched, in broad outline, Kellogg's future course—administration, writing, investigating, interpreting and teaching.

While it is true that the influence of the college years was direct and strong, it is also true that the qualities which they revealed in Kellogg were inherent and had already evidenced themselves in his early youth. William Allen White, who knew him well, in an editorial in the *Emporia Gazette*, gives a charming description of these early days:

“His was a happy boyhood. It was busy and purposeful. It foreshadowed his life. Few boys who have grown up in this town have got so much out of the first years as he did.

“They lived such lives as boys now know only in envious dreams. They skated and swam, trapped and hunted and fished and studied wild life until the whole annual panorama of nature with the going and coming of plants and birds and flowers and the passing colors of the grass and trees became a part of their life.

“Is it a wonder that such a boy became a scientist? How could he help it? When he left this town to go to the University of Kansas in 1885 at 18, his fate was written inexorably in the blood and environment of childhood. A college professor's son, Vernon had learned casually to love the outer manifestations of nature. He yearned secretly to study the inner sources of things.”

The few years of experience at the University of Kansas were so fruitful and revealing that they brought Kellogg to the notice of President Jordan, and without hesitation, he offered Kellogg a position on the faculty of Stanford University. Here he came intimately into contact with President Jordan, just as he had with Chancellor Snow at Kansas, and with him he collaborated in teaching and writing. The association was stimulating and helpful in many ways both to Kellogg and to Jordan; fruitful to the University—and to its students.

Here the greatest amount of Kellogg's scientific writing was done, and here he practically ended his career as a teacher and investigator. In view of his great local influence it is curious to note how few were his contacts with fellow biologists in their organizations, and how slight the recognition of his excellent work. This is probably due to the fact that he placed emphasis upon the popularization of biology rather than upon its extension. And yet his scientific bibliography alone would do great credit to any investigator. His sustained interest over many years in the Mallophaga made him the leading authority in this group. But this taxonomic work was only incidental to the question of the evolutionary importance of the biting lice. This same phylogenetic interest he carried over into the study of other insect groups. There was, in his mind, always the broad significance of the biological facts he had discovered. Even the extensive experimental work on the silk worm, extending over a

period of fifteen years, traced back to this interest. The character and extent of his writings are so well revealed in his bibliography that they need not be mentioned further.

The years at Stanford stand out as those of his greatest scientific productivity. A constant stream of books, reviews, addresses and research papers came year after year from his pen, evidencing sustained interest and power. At the same time he became influential in the affairs of the University and an inspiration to its students. With Jordan he gave a course on evolution which aroused such interest and enthusiasm that numerous study groups were formed for more extended discussions. Here Kellogg grew and ripened and prepared himself unknowingly for the heavy responsibilities that were later to fall on his shoulders.

The final scenes of Kellogg's life were laid in places remote from those of his early life, and they were remote also in the character of the interests which they held. These interests were much more general and popular and their relations and implications more generally understood. The activities which they engendered made but small contribution to the development of his personality and character, which were well established when the world's madness called him to Europe to make application of the knowledge and training which the west had given him. Circumstances which he there encountered did, however, open up much greater opportunities for his talents, and doubtless greatly strengthened and broadened his purpose to make biology a force in human affairs. His success in alleviating suffering and in interpreting the motives and activities of contending peoples is well known and is evident in the honors that came to him.

Participation of the United States in the world war brought him at last to Washington to aid in the organization of science in support of the Government. The first formal result of these efforts was the organization of the National Research Council in which he became chairman of the Divisions of Agriculture, Botany and Zoology. When the Council was later made a continuing body he was named the Permanent Secretary, in which office he continued, active and emeritus, until his death.

He was also Chairman of the Division of Educational Relations for ten years and a member of innumerable committees. Indeed he was the real integrating, and largely directive, force in the operation of this body which has done so much to make the scientific organizations of this country a working force. His conduct in all the important matters which came up for action was characterized by tolerance, good judgment and practical idealism. It is not too much to say that whatever success the Council has had is due largely to his activities. The limited space available makes a detailed enumeration of his achievements impossible, but they may be inferred from the list of offices he occupied.

If one were required to designate the most outstanding characteristic of Kellogg, he would unhesitatingly think of his intense and sustained activity—both mental and physical. His mind was constantly thrusting out in search of new ideas and contacts. This led him early into research—an interest which he maintained throughout his life, although in later years his response to more insistent demands did not permit its continuation. But always the pace was too slow when it depended upon the efforts of one individual and so he read much and widely. A considerable proportion of his bibliography is occupied with titles of reviews and critiques. This accumulation of information led to the production of numerous text books, and many newspaper and magazine articles. As his experience broadened the subjects of his discussions became less and less technical and more and more general. Practical applications of biology always interested him, but as the years passed and he saw more clearly the service which biology might render to social progress, this became the theme of his writings. To conceive a thought was to express it. His judgment, nevertheless, was remarkably good for one who wrote so readily and continuously. In time the ethical implications of scientific thought came to occupy much of his attention. As an example of this phase of his thinking an excerpt from his discussion of death may be given: "Death may possibly be not only that normal incident in human life we recognize it to be, but it may be simply one, the last one we now know, of a series of profound evolutionary changes in an

organism which has a continuing career of which we know now only the earlier stages; that is the stages of conception, embryology, adolescence, senescence and death.

“Death may not be the end, but simply another change in human life, greater and more radical, but perhaps no less possible than the changes from the single egg cell to myriad-celled and utterly different. Death may be but the change from one condition of humanness to another.”

Instead of relying entirely upon my own judgment for a choice of the qualities in Kellogg which were most characteristic and significant, I consulted the opinions of others. Some of these are here recorded:

*Mme. Jusserand*: “I think of his splendid work, of his modesty and disinterestedness, of his eagerness to help his fellow men by his science and learning. And how could I ever forget what we owe him, here in France, for the lives he saved and for the sympathy he showed for our people in their hours of dire need. His intelligence, his heart, his tact made him succeed in a task where the lack of either would have meant failure.”

*Harold Heath*: “From the outset he displayed a keenness of intellect, and a most active interest in literary and educational subjects, as well as in his chosen field, biology. \* \* \* The interest created by these past masters (Jordan and Kellogg) in the art of presentation was great indeed. Discussion groups were formed in the student body and it is safe to say that the results exerted a profound influence upon many individuals and schools far beyond the confines of the Stanford campus. \* \* \* It is safe to say that he exercised a lasting influence on the early life of Stanford University and was one of its great leaders.”

*Harlan Stone*, Supreme Court of the United States: “To those of us who knew Vernon Kellogg best, his life presents a pattern of contrasts which are nevertheless singularly harmonious. \* \* \* Scientifically trained, for most of his life a teacher of science, and never forsaking his scientific interest, he became more and more the guide, philosopher and friend of worthwhile educational and philanthropic undertakings.

“The eminent service which he rendered to science, to education, and the humanities, and above all the grace and integrity of



his mind, revealed to the stranger by his gifted pen, are the precious memories of those who knew him, and who, knowing, loved him."

*Ray Lyman Wilbur*: "He was characterized by a beautiful clearness and simplicity in thinking and statement. This combined with his appreciation of art, his dramatic sense and his broad human sympathy and understanding, made him one of our great authors of popular science."

*Resolutions of the Academic Council, Stanford University*: "\* \* \* these words spoken in grateful remembrance of a charming friend, distinguished colleague, great-hearted and far-seeing citizen of the world."

*Editorial, Washington Post*: "Dr. Vernon Kellogg was one of those rare spirits, found most frequently in the scientific world, in whom unusual talent and unusual charm of character were most happily combined. \* \* \* The man who is honored alike by scientists, by statesmen, and by little children is one whose contribution will endure. \* \* \* So the name of Vernon Kellogg rests secure among those Americans of our day who have been of memorable service to humanity."

*Editorial, Emporia Gazette*: "But what he learned in journalism, indeed what he learned anywhere, he took with him. His life was an accumulation of ten thousand things that he had learned in passing through the wilderness of the world. So he was gentle, wise and kind to the end. \* \* \* With all his learning, with all his wisdom, with all his gentleness, and with all the love he bore so many friends, also he had great courage."

#### CHRONOLOGY

- 1867. Born December 1, 1867, Emporia, Kansas, son of Lyman Beecher and Abigail (Homer) Kellogg.
- 1889. Graduated, A.B., University of Kansas.
- 1890-93. Assistant Professor of Entomology, University of Kansas.
- 1892. Graduate, M.S., University of Kansas.
- 1893. Student, University of Leipzig.
- 1893-94. Associate Professor of Entomology, University of Kansas.
- 1894-95. Assistant Professor of Entomology, Leland Stanford University.
- 1895-96. Associate Professor of Entomology, Leland Stanford University.
- 1896-1920. Professor of Entomology, Leland Stanford University.
- 1897. University of Leipzig.

1904. University of Paris.  
 1908. At Florence, Italy, married Charlotte Hoffman of Berkeley, Calif.  
 1908. University of Paris.  
 1910. His daughter, Jean Kellogg, born in Berkeley, California.  
 1915-16. Director, Brussels, American Committee for Relief of the Belgians.  
 1917-19. Assistant to U. S. Food Administrator.  
 1918. Chairman, Division of Agriculture, National Research Council.  
 1918-21. Chief of mission to Poland, special investigator in Russia, member American Relief Administration.  
 1919-31. Permanent Secretary of the National Research Council.  
 1919-29. Chairman of Division of Educational Relations, National Research Council.  
 1919-34. Member of Research Information Service, National Research Council.  
 1919-34. Member, Division of States Relations, National Research Council.  
 1919-33. Member, Division of Foreign Relations, National Research Council; Vice-chairman, 1921-33.  
 1921-33. Board of Trustees, Science Service.  
 1925-31. Member of Executive Committee of International Research Council.  
 1931. Secretary Emeritus, National Research Council.  
 1937. Died, August 8, at Hartford, Connecticut.

#### DEGREES AND MEMBERSHIP IN SOCIETIES

LL.D. University of California, 1919, Brown, 1920; Sc.D. Oberlin, 1922.  
 National Academy of Sciences.

American Society of Naturalists; American Entomological Society; Ecological Society; Association of Economic Entomologists; Genetics Association; American Philosophical Society; Washington Academy; Kansas Academy; California Academy; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; Entomologische Gesellschaft; Société Entomologique de France.

Officer of the Legion of Honor (France) Commander of the Crown (Belgium) Commander of the Order of Leopold I (Belgium) Commander of the Order of Polonia Restituta (Poland), Gold medal (Poland).

Trustees of Rockefeller Foundation, Brookings Institution, Gallaudet College.

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The extensive series of publications by Kellogg is impossible to list in its entirety in the limited space here available. Therefore only books and the more important scientific articles will be mentioned by name, while the total numbers of other classes of writings will be given. The range of subjects treated is most astonishing and rarely, even in hastily written articles, is there any lapse in style or scientific accuracy. When it is remembered that this extensive series of writings is but the by-product of a life full of teaching and administration, its extent and character are almost unbelievable.

In addition to the list of scientific papers, books and articles in books, here appended, there appeared book reviews to the number of 37 from 1920 to 1924; magazine articles to the number of 102 from 1916 to 1926; and newspaper articles syndicated, in many papers, to the number of 52 during the years 1920 to 1927.

## EARLY OR MORE IMPORTANT ARTICLES

1895

- The classification of the Lepidoptera. *Am. Naturalist* 5:248-257.  
 The mouthparts of the Lepidoptera. *Am. Naturalist* 5:546-556.  
 The affinities of the Lepidopterous Wing. *Am. Naturalist* 5:709-717.  
 (With F. J. Jack.) The California Phryganidian (*Phryganidia californica* Pack). *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. ser. 2.*, 5: 562-570. Sept.  
 The Ephemeroidea and venation nomenclature. *Psyche* 7:311-315. December.

1896

- New Mallophaga. I. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. ser. 2.*, 6:31-168. March.  
 The Mallophaga. *Psyche* 7:375-379. May.  
 New Mallophaga. II. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. ser. 2.*, 6:431-548.  
 Mallophaga of North American Birds. *Zool. Anz.* 19:121-123.

1899

- Mallophaga from birds of Panama, Baja, California and Alaska. *Occ. Papers, Calif. Acad. Sci.* 6:1-52. February.  
 (With B. L. Chapman.) Mallophaga from birds of California. *Occ. Papers, Calif. Acad. Sci.* 6:53-141. February.  
 The mouthparts of the Nematoceros Diptera I-V. *Psyche* 8:303-306, 327-330, 346-348, 355-359, 363-365, January-June.  
 A list of the Biting lice (Mallophaga) taken from birds and mammals of North America. *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 22:39-100.

1900

- Notes on the Structure and Life History of *Blepharocera capitata* Loew. *Ent. News* 11:305-318. January.

(With S. I. Kuwana.) Mallophaga from Alaska birds. *Proc. Phila. Acad. Sci.* 23:151-159.

1901

Phagocytosis in the Post-embryonic Development of the Diptera. *Am. Naturalist* 35:363-368. May.

1902

(With B. L. Chapman.) Mallophaga from birds of the Pacific coast of North America. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.* 10:20-28.

Development and Homologies of the Mouthparts of Insects. *Am. Naturalist* 36:683-706. September.

1903

The Net-winged Midges (Blepharoceridae) of North America. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 3d ser. 3:187-232. February.

Two New Genera of Mallophaga. *Biol. Bull.* 5:85-91. July.

Some Insect Reflexes. *Science* 18:693-696. November.

1904

Restorative Regeneration, in Nature, of the Star-fish, *Linckia diplax* (Muller and Troschel). *Jour. Exp. Zool.* 1:353-356. August.

(With R. G. Bell.) Variations induced in larval, pupal and imaginal stages of *Bombyx mori* by controlled varying food supply. *Science* 18:741-748. December.

(With R. G. Bell.) Studies of variation in insects. *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* 6:203-332. December.

Regeneration in larval eggs of silkworms. *Jour. Exp. Zool.* 1:593-599. 10 figs. December.

Influence of primary reproductive organs on secondary sexual characters. *Jour. Exp. Zool.* 1:601-605. December.

1906

Physiological regeneration in insects. *Science* 23:149-152. January.

Galls and gall flies. *Nature Study Review* 2:109-114. March.

Mallophaga from Argentina. *Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc.* 14:45-49. March.

Colors of butterflies and moths. *Nature Study Review* 2:206-211. September.

The scientific aspects of Luther Burbank's works. *Popular Science Monthly* 69:363-374. October.

Is there determinate variation? *Science* 24:621-628. November.

Variation in parthenogenetic insects. *Science* 24:695-699. November.

A second collection of Mallophaga from birds of the Galapagos and Revillagigedo Islands and neighboring waters. *In Trans. Am. Ent. Soc.* 32:315-324. November.

1907

Sex differentiation in larval insects. *Biol. Bull.* 12:380-384.

Artificial parthenogenesis in the silkworm. *Biol. Bull.* 14:15-22. December.

1908

The Mallophaga of the world. Systematic summary. *Psyche* 15:11-13. February.

(With R. G. Smith.) Inheritance in silkworms. I. University Series, Leland Stanford Jr. University Pubs. 89 pp. 4 pl.

The Mallophaga of the Kilimandjaro Region. *Wiss. Ergeb. Schwed. Deutsch.-Afrika Exp. Fasc.* 15:43-56. 1 pl.

1910

Is there determinate variation? *Science* 31:401-403. November.

1911

An experiment in double mating. *Science* 33:783-789. May.

(With J. H. Painc.) Anoplura and Mallophaga from African Hosts. *Bull. Entom. Res.* 2:145-152. July.

1914

Mallophaga from birds of the South Atlantic. *Sci. Bull. Brooklyn Inst. Art and Sci.* 2:80-89. November.

The bionomics of war. *Social Hygiene* 1:44-52. December.

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