

## THE SOCIETY'S "EMINENT ECOLOGIST"



Dr. Henry S. Conard

"Born and reared in a Quaker community (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1874) where the study of natural history was the most approved outdoor sport and the contemplation of nature was a form of worship," Dr. Henry Shoemaker Conard began his career as a plant ecologist in childhood. "An early ambition was to see and know every vascular plant in the community. That meant learning what grows where. One could not avoid wondering why, as well."

From this youthful interest in plants and their environments, Dr. Conard continued his botanical studies, receiving his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Haverford College and his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. His career as a teacher of botany began at Grinnell College in 1906 and continued there until he became an Emeritus Professor in 1944. His summers were spent as a lecturer at Cold Spring Harbor, the University of Iowa, and Harvard College and as a Ranger-Naturalist in Yellowstone National Park.

During these years of teaching and research Dr. Conard became an outstanding plant anatomist and taxonomist, publishing many papers on the Nymphaeaceae, the hay-scented fern, a flora of Iowa, How to Know the Mosses, The Mosses of Iowa, and the vegetation of saltmarshes, sand-spit, and denuded areas. For the last 25 years he has devoted most of his time to learning and teaching the mosses, and as a result of his work, bryophytic vegetation is now being included in many studies of general and applied plant sociology in America.

One of Dr. Conard's most important contributions has been his translation of Braun-Blanquet's **Pflanzensoziologie**, making this fundamental text available for the use of students unfamiliar with the German language. Another major work is his translation of Kerner's **Pflanzenleben der Donauländer**, a rare book now available to American biologists through Dr. Conard's efforts.

His youthful interest in knowing why plants grow in certain locations has resulted also in **The Vegetation of Iowa**, a study of the plants of that state in sociological terms.

Now having celebrated his 80th birthday, Dr. Conard looks back on his long career as a taxonomist, anatomist, and ecologist, feeling that his primary motivation throughout the years has been "to help broaden and deepen the scope and foundation of North American ecology." The Ecological Society's decision to award Dr. Conard the newly created title of "Eminent Ecologist" reflects the general feeling of American ecologists that he has fulfilled this ambition to an outstanding degree, that he has contributed greatly to the study of ecology and that he has become truly eminent in this field.