Another death which we know the members of the Society will learn of with the greatest regret is that of Dr. William Morton Wheeler, professor emeritus of entomology at Harvard University. Professor Wheeler died suddenly on April 19th. The following biographical sketch has been prepared in recognition of Dr. Wheeler's influence upon certain basic aspects of ecology:

"The death of William Morton Wheeler at the age of seventy-two, at the height of his powers, will call for memorials from many who knew him better and who are able to express themselves more adequately about his life and work than I. No one who writes of him, however, will have a higher regard for his many and varied talents or a keener appreciation either of the polish or of the significance of his work.

"This is not the place to appraise his whole career. Although he was the first Vice-president of the Ecological Society of America and, interestingly enough, its first representative on the National Research Council and a member of the first editorial board of *Ecology,* Dr. Wheeler did not identify himself closely with the present self-conscious ecological movement. Rather, he sprang from and continued the line of the greater naturalists, Reamur, Buffon and Fabre, and was pleased to turn his first-rate intellectual powers, his penetrating observation, and his command of language to the elucidation of the life of social insects, ants particularly. According to an unverified story, one of his zoölogical friends protested against his wasting his powers in this field when he might have been solving so-called fundamental problems, to which Dr. Wheeler returned the sufficient answer, 'Ants interest me.'

"Professor Wheeler focused his attention on the ecological relations of social insects rather than those of the biota or of the general animal communities of which ants form a part. He was particularly interested in the social interactions within the ant's nest, and in the immediate ecological relations of the ants as

individuals and as colonies. He saw and made others see these problems in relation to similar phases of the life of social animals in general, man included. At the same time he worked at other phases of the biology of ants, such as taxonomy, morphology, life history and distribution.

"Dr. Wheeler's conception of applied biology, as witnessed by the work he and his colleagues produced during his years as Dean of Bussey Institute for research in Applied Biology and professor of Economic Entomology at Harvard merits attention. The applications they studied were usually remote, rather than direct and immediate. In a period when applied biology has occupied itself with economic problems of the moment and when, in many places, the whole content of entomology appears to deal with poisons and their use and with insects as recipients of poison or the objects of other control measures, Dr. Wheeler continued to enlighten and enliven the scientific scene with penetrating studies of permanent value. More than almost any other recent biologist, Wheeler's work illustrates the fact that a first rate man can unearth fundamental relationships regardless of his point of attack.

"It is a privilege to have known Dr. Wheeler even slightly, to have read his books and scientific reports, and to have heard his inimitable addresses before scientific audiences. His passing removes one of the best reasons for attending a scientific meeting. Dr. Wheeler was one of those rare men who, born a naturalist, became a scientist and thereby became a better naturalist than before. —W. C. Allee."