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RICHARD J. NEVES



ARNOLD E. ORTMANN  
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## ARNOLD EDWARD ORTMANN

American science has suffered a serious loss in the death at Pittsburgh of Dr. Arnold E. Ortmann, January 3 of this year, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

“He was born in Magdeburg, Prussia, April 8, 1863. He studied at the universities of Kiel, Strassburg and Jena, receiving the degree of doctor of philosophy in the latter institution in 1885. During 1883 he served for one year in the German Army Reserve and retired with the rank of lieutenant of infantry. He was a favorite pupil of Ernst Haeckel, of Jena, and was with him as an assistant on the expedition which Haeckel made to Zanzibar. He subsequently served for a time as instructor in the University of Strassburg. He came to the United States in 1894 and served as curator of invertebrate paleontology in Princeton University from that date until 1903 when he became curator of invertebrate zoology in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States while living at Princeton. From 1909 to 1910 while retaining his position in the Carnegie Museum he served as instructor in zoogeography, and from 1910 until 1925 as professor of physical geography, and from 1925 until his death as professor of zoology in the University of Pittsburgh.

“While at Princeton in 1899 he was a member of the Princeton (Peary Relief) Expedition. He was a member of the

American Philosophical Society, of the German Zoologische Gesellschaft, of the Leopoldinisch-Carolinische Akademie der Naturforscher, of the American Society of Naturalists and of the Ecological Society of America. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and held membership in many other learned societies. He was the author of numerous monographs and papers upon botany and aquatic invertebrates. He contributed to Bronn's 'Klassen und Ordnungen des Tierreiches,' writing the portion of that great work which relates to the Decapoda. His report upon the Tertiary Invertebrates of the Princeton Expedition to Patagonia was published in 1902."<sup>1</sup>

In Ortmann's work on zoogeography he left aside the birds and mammals which had served for the greater part of previous works, and devoted himself to the evidence of aquatic invertebrates. An intimate and exact knowledge of several great groups, and logical marshaling of the facts characterize his papers on this subject, the chief of which are: "Grundzüge der marinen Tiergeographie," Jena, 1896; "The Geographical Distribution of fresh-water Decapods, and its bearing on ancient Geography," 1902, and "The Alleghenian Divide, and its influence upon the freshwater Fauna," 1913, both published in Philadelphia. Not less important is the zoogeographic discussion in his work on the crayfishes. Zoogeographic problems are considered also in many of his faunistic papers.

Some of Ortmann's early work (1890) had been on Cephalopoda. In the last twenty years he returned to the Mollusca, taking up the study of fresh-water mussels with the greatest ardor. His investigations extended from the Ohio system to all the rivers of the eastern United States from New England to the Carolinas and a partial exploration of the rivers of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. His researches have thrown a great deal of light upon the geology and transformations of the rivers of the eastern half of the United States. In the morphology and classification of Unionidæ he was soon recognized as the chief American authority. He continued and greatly extended

<sup>1</sup>Quoted from W. J. Holland in *Science*, Jan. 14, 1927.

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the system, which he took up where Simpson's great work left it; and he has set a high standard for future workers on this subject. The "Monograph of the Naiades of Pennsylvania," 1919, and "South American Naiades," 1921, both copiously illustrated, published as Memoirs of the Carnegie Museum, may be mentioned, but every year he produced important papers on different aspects of the subject. One of his great services was the work on unionid gill-structure.

Dr. Ortmann was a man of rather over medium height, strong and well proportioned, cordial and prepossessing in manner. His enthusiasm for natural history was contagious, and contributed largely to his success as a teacher. He possessed the ability in an unusual degree of concentrating all of his powers on the subject in hand. In the field he was indefatigable, never sparing himself, deterred by neither exposure or fatigue in the quest of specimens for his researches. In 1911 the University of Pittsburgh recognized his attainments in science by conferring the degree of Sc.D.

In 1894 he married Anna Zaiss at Achern in Baden, who survives him, with one son and two married daughters. His death is a personal loss to a wide circle of scientific friends and correspondents.—H. A. P.