

ROBERT EARL RICHARDSON
1877-1935

Mr. R. E. Richardson, for thirty years ichthyologist and aquatic biologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey, died on April 14, 1935, following a three-day illness in an Urbana hospital.

He is buried in Brighton, Illinois, the town where he was born on November 28, 1877. His parents were Robert and Emily Dickerson Richardson, who had also been born in Macoupin County. He spent his childhood and boyhood in the vicinity of Alton, attended the De-Pauw preparatory department at Greencastle, Indiana, and received his college work at the University of Illinois where, as a freshman, he was president of his class. After graduation he was elected a fellow in zoology and received the Master of Arts degree in 1903.

Mr. Richardson collaborated with Professor Stephen A. Forbes in the years 1903 to 1906 in the preparation of their classic volume, "The Fishes of Illinois." The years 1906 to 1909 were spent at Leland Stanford University in association with David Starr Jordan with whom he published a series of papers on the fishes of Formosa, Japan, and the Philippines. He returned to Illinois in 1909 to take charge of the field investigations in aquatic biology. Failing health forced him to stop active field work in 1922. He continued his work in the laboratories of the Natural History Survey until 1930 and continued to work mornings until 1933 when rapidly failing health forced him to stop all regular work. During these years he wrote ten of the bulletins of the Natural History Survey, most of which deal with the small bottom animals of the Illinois River. This work was undertaken for the quantitative evaluation of the stocks of food available to fishes, but, with the alarming increase of pollution in the Illinois, he readily adapted these studies to the accurate measurement of the degree of pollution.

Mr. Richardson was not only widely informed in the field of biology but was also well read in the fields of English and Greek literature, biography, history, and finance. Delicate and uncertain health forced him to lead a very secluded and quiet life, but on days when he felt well one could not find a more charming conversationalist or more boyishly genuine enthusiasm.

DAVID H. THOMPSON