

Obituary

From New York comes news of the death, on August 29th, 1921, of Dr. Joel Asaph Allen, Curator of Birds and Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History, and one of the seven Corresponding Members of this Union. Dr. Allen was 83 years of age, and ornithology in general, and American ornithology in particular, have profited greatly by his long term of active work.

He was one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, was its president for the first seven years of its existence, and edited *The Auk* for twenty-eight years. He also edited twenty-two volumes of the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*. His scientific field work was extensive. Between the years 1865 and 1877 he made several collecting trips into remote parts, and his many experiences are recorded in his "Autobiographical Notes," published by the Museum in 1916.

Dr. Allen was deeply interested in nomenclature, and the excellence of the A.O.U. "Check-List" is acknowledged in *The Auk* as due, to a large extent, to his ability and energy. His interest in the subject also won for him a place on the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. His death removes one more of the pioneers of ornithology, and places the task of maintaining the science in its present high plane more heavily upon the shoulders of younger workers.

MRS. MARY ROBERTS, C.M.Z.S.

Mrs. Mary Roberts, a well-known nature-lover, and a former member of the R.A.O.U., died at Hobart on November 27th, 1921, in her 81st year.

Some years ago Mrs. Roberts established a collection of the Tasmanian fauna, and her private zoo at "Beaumaris," near Hobart, was known to thousands of visitors. She was an enthusiastic nature-student, and was considered the greatest authority on the habits of the Tasmanian Devil and the Tasmanian Tiger. It is understood, too, that she was the only woman honoured by election as C.M.Z.S.

The collection at "Beaumaris" contained some animals now almost extinct, and was stated by scientists to be exceedingly valuable. After the death of Mrs. Roberts, her relatives expressed the desire that the collection be taken over by some public body in Tasmania to form the nucleus of a zoological gardens, and the Hobart City Council has accepted the responsibility of carrying out that purpose.