

PROMINENT MEN I HAVE MET

PROFESSOR J. H. PAARMANN

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FOREWORD

J. H. Paarmann was long one of the most popular and most useful citizens of Davenport. His field of research, of effort, and of helpfulness was much wider than his home community. Since his death it occurred to his old friend and co-worker in the scientific field, to gather up the facts of his life. In this task he acknowledges the valuable help of Miss S. G. F. Sheldon, who was connected with the work of the old Davenport Academy of Sciences, now the Davenport Public Museum, during the period of Professor Paarmann's curatorship. Dr. Pammel offered the *Democrat and Leader* the opportunity of publishing this record of the public service of an esteemed citizen of Davenport and the offer was accepted with the thanks which this paper expresses for its readers as well as on its own behalf.—The prologue by the editor of the *Democrat*, May 20, 1928.



PROFESSOR J. H. PAARMANN

For nearly 27 years J. H. Paarmann was a familiar personality to the people of Davenport and especially to those who frequented the museum of the old Davenport Academy of Science and later the Davenport Public Museum. Not that he was unknown to the people of Davenport before 1900, when he came to the Davenport Academy to arrange the collection of corals and other marine life, becoming the curator of the Davenport Academy in the spring of 1902. There were those of course in the city of Davenport who watched the boy grow to manhood, and more who followed his career in the public schools and later the State University of Iowa. Mr. Paarmann spent practically his whole life in Davenport and Scott County, coming to his own through his own hard and persistent efforts. Let us therefore follow his career.

He was born in Davenport Sept. 2, 1870, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Paarmann, respected and honored citizens of this community. H. J. Paarmann is still living, as are one sister, Agnes Paarmann, and the brothers, John, William, Henry, and Emil. The ancestry is German, the father coming from Ditmarshen, Schleswig-Holstein (born in 1848), and the mother, whose maiden name was Christina Dressen (born in 1850), came from the same place. The father and mother came to Davenport in 1869 and were married in Davenport in the same year. They had not met in Ditmarshen.

Our J. H. Paarmann brought a substantial lineage, industrious, careful, methodic, and honest and sincere with lofty ideals.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the public grammar schools of Davenport until graduation at about 13. He attended the Davenport Business College during the evenings. His early education must have been strong in the fundamentals so that in the future he could use it to good advantage. I believe I am safe in saying that his parental care and contact with other people had much to do with his interest in things outside of the immediate professional work in which he was engaged. As was the custom among Germans, who felt that the young men should follow some trade, he chose the printer's trade, and was with the Davenport *Daily Gazette* as compositor. This must have been a splendid training for him; but he found his work to be too strenuous. His connection with the *Gazette* was for 1882-1883, possibly extending into 1884. He then engaged in the upholstering business for six or seven years, and then he had had enough training to enter the Iowa State Teacher's college at Cedar Falls, feeling, as Miss Sheldon writes me, that his filial duty had been fulfilled and, being of age, he

felt justified in yielding to his own inclinations. Between 1892-1896 he taught the school at Blue Grass and one time served as principal of the Walcott, Iowa, High School.

Prof. Paarmann graduated from the University of Iowa with the B.S. degree in 1901, and after a year of graduate work in zoology in 1902 the same institution conferred on him the M.S. degree.

Enthusiastic teachers will set in motion many inclinations. There were at the university doctors and investigators who not only accomplished much for science in the way of new discoveries but they inspired men to observe and delve into nature. Three men had an important influence on the life of young Paarmann, and they were men of the old school of natural science and natural history: Dr. Samuel Calvin, an authority in geology, a great teacher and an investigator; Dr. Thomas H. MacBride, unique among college lecturers and an authority on slime moulds and the fleshy fungi; Dr. C. C. Nutting, another authority on hydroids and other low forms of marine life. These men gave to Paarmann, the student, an insight and an inspiration to love the out-of-doors.

The following interesting letter from Dr. C. C. Nutting, who was the professor of zoology and curator of the museum at the University of Iowa, very appropriately remarks:

"Iowa City, Ia., Feb. 5, 1902.

"To Whom It May Concern:

"This is to certify that J. H. Paarmann has done nearly all of the work regularly offered in the department of zoology in this university in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to his instructors. He now holds a scholarship in zoology, and is showing marked ability in original investigation.

"I understand that Mr. Paarmann desires to devote himself to scientific work, either in the line of teaching or in some position where he can engage in biological work. I regard him as exceptionally well equipped either for teaching zoology, or carrying on biological investigations. He is careful and methodical in habit, and exact in observation. His knowledge of modern languages is of a better grade than is usually found, even among college graduates, and ought to be of special value in advanced work.

"Mr. Paarmann has also had a long and successful experience as teacher in the public schools of Iowa, and I confidently predict that he will have a like success should he secure an appointment in a college or university.

"Very respectfully,
(Signed) "C. C. NUTTING."

Prof. Paarmann became the principal of the Walcott, Iowa, public school, 1898-1900, and this is where he met Dorothea Schreiber, to whom he was married in Walcott, March 5, 1898. One daughter, Mrs. Granville Keith, who survives, was born to them. He came to the Davenport Academy of Science in 1897.

Prof. Paarmann died on July 14, 1927, in the city of Davenport. He was buried in Davenport on Sunday, July 17. The Rev. Julius Krolfner, pastor of the Unitarian church, officiated at the funeral, Mr. Paarmann being a member of the Unitarian church.

Paarmann and the Davenport Academy

E. K. Putnam, a close associate of Mr. Paarmann, paid the following fine tribute to him in the *Davenport Democrat and Leader* of July 15, 1927.

"From over 20 years' close association with Hermann Paarmann in the direction of the old Academy of Sciences, now the Davenport Public Museum, it is my opportunity and privilege to pay a tribute to his invaluable services to this public institution and the community. During the 25 years that he was curator the collections of the museum expanded to many times their former size and covered a much broader field. The museum data idea also expanded to include educational and other activities. This meant constantly arising new problems.

"But no matter what the problem, Mr. Paarmann was always ready to tackle it. He could turn his hand to anything. As the active head of the institution, with the voluntary assistance of Miss Sheldon, and with a limited financial budget he carried on the work of a museum that called for a staff of half a dozen or more. He was always making the best of the facilities at hand, but also looking forward to increased activities and the development of the greater museum of the future.

"At the time of our last talk a few days ago he was full of plans for the next step of expansion for which the trustees of the museum are now working. He deserves the credit due to the man who, as the English say, has faithfully 'carried on' toward a worthy goal."

Miss S. G. F. Sheldon, who was a close associate in the museum and the old Academy, in a letter to me on Sept. 26, 1927, pays the following fine tribute to Mr. Paarmann:

"We are yet too close to the life of our friend to enumerate the tangible results of his numerous activities, or to let words represent to us an appreciation of his personality whose attitude of friendly appeal won universal attraction; an appeal that charmed the coarsest or most indifferent natures and impressed itself into their lives.

"Professional pursuits, varied and incessant, led him into divers by-paths, and to individual contacts which many times became of far-reaching influence.

"A keen perception of significant points, or vital faults, in whatever was presented to his attention, betrayed the instinctive spirit of an artist, and a brilliant mind, whose humorous remark, or what he called his logic, enabled him to lead an argument or a quest up to any climax which he wished to uncover.

"Aside from instruction work, and play at most of the summer Scout camps, one of his relaxations was a growing garden; and on the canvas of his lawn he drew his lines, curves, and color effects, that were neither

earth nor flower-blossom but an ensemble, distinctive and uncommon; then some of these fleeting visions he photographed, and by lantern slides hung his work or art upon the screen to illustrate his lectures for community inspiration.

"Community affairs and civic clubs were of the utmost importance in his estimation and he lent himself unstintingly to the development of a beautiful city."

The officials of the Davenport Public Museum on the completion of 25 years of service of Mr. Paarmann passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, by the trustees of the Davenport Public Museum, that, in recognition of his completion of 25 years as curator of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, now the Davenport Public Museum, a special vote of thanks be extended to J. H. Paarmann for his faithful service to the museum during this long period, especially for his devotion and usefulness in building up the museum and carrying on its educational and other public work under conditions that might have proved discouraging, and for his wide interest in planning for its future development."

Paarmann as a Teacher

G. A. Andreen, president of Augustana College, in a letter to the writer, says:

"We had the pleasure of knowing Prof. J. H. Paarmann as a resident of Davenport during many years. He also taught at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, during the scholastic year 1918-1919. He was a man of exceptional ability and great studiousness. In his well-ordered mind he not only had an array of facts, and a great knowledge of Natural Science, but he had a deep understanding and a vision which made him a creative scholar in advancing scientific truth. The effect of his life work is therefore abiding, both in its own result and in the great influence he had upon those with whom he associated and whom he taught. Our gratitude for the work accomplished by Prof. Paarmann will never cease."

The following is from the *Rock Island Argus* of Sept. 13, 1927, referring to an address by the writer at Augustana College on Sept. 13, 1927: "In speaking of the work of the late Prof. J. H. Paarmann, once a member of the Augustana College faculty and later and more prominently known through his work as curator of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, he stated that Paarmann rendered a very distinctive service to the state of Iowa, but especially the Quad-cities."

Prof. Paarmann was a member of the following scientific bodies: Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Association of Museums, the Archaeological Institute of America, and a life member of the Davenport Public Museum. He also was a member of the Rotary Club.

Prof. Paarmann was a busy man. The people of Davenport came to him with all kinds of questions. Many men would not have taken the

time to respond to the numerous requests that came to him for information. Some persons wanted to know about the habits of birds, something about civic improvement, some wanted to know about weeds, and others about plants they wished identified. To all he gave his time and energy willingly. He was a faithful public servant in the truest and best sense of the word.

Prof. Paarmann was also a fine teacher in the best sense of the word. While he was not regularly employed as a teacher in the public schools, his contact with the pupils in the Davenport public schools through the instrumentality of the Davenport Public Museum gave him large opportunities for service. He gave many talks on "Nature." These talks were impressive because of the earnestness of presentation, and the fine lantern illustrations made from his own photographs and beautifully colored by the fine artist, Miss S. G. F. Sheldon. The influence he exerted may be seen from the following letter written by D. George Deihl, a student at Grinnell College, dated Grinnell, Iowa, Nov. 25, 1925:

"You probably don't remember me but I used to attend your lectures in biology classes at Davenport High School and at other times when I might. I am at Grinnell College now and in the name of the Science Club would like to invite you to present us with an illustrated lecture."

A short time after the lecture Dr. Henry S. Conard of Grinnell College wrote as follows: "The echoes of your lecture are still heard about here. It was a great success and we are very much obliged to you for the pleasure. Under separate cover I am sending my little pamphlet on the trees of Grinnell. I wish something of the sort, but better, could be furnished to every town in the state."

Miss Eleanor Hageboeck of Moline wrote as follows from Moline on March 26: "The mothers of the Logan school of Moline wish to express to you their gratitude for the splendid talk you gave them last week. With spring close at hand comes the urge to dress up our homes and gardens and I am sure many homes in the vicinity will profit by the many helpful suggestions you gave us."

For a number of years Prof. Paarmann gave a series of lectures and some work to students in Augustana College. This fine work was greatly appreciated by the college and students. In 1918 he accepted a call to fill the professorship of science at Augustana College, Rock Island. The Davenport Academy of Science willingly gave him permission to use half of his time to instruct the students of Augustana.

Prof. Paarmann did some very important work for the Boy and Girl Scouts in Davenport, Rock Island and Moline. Mrs. J. P. Banawitz in a letter from Moline writes: "At a meeting of the Rock Island Girl Scout Council last Thursday, I was instructed to convey to you the appreciation of the Council for the very valuable instruction given by you to our girls in Camp."

E. W. Woodcock, president of the Moline Council Boy Scouts of America wrote under date of August 18, 1926: "I desire to officially

and personally thank you again for your continued activity at Camp Mansur.

"The splendid work you are doing with the boys through your stereopticon lectures and nature study activities is helping mightily in building up Camp Mansur as a recreational and educational institution, which already is attaining some fame.

"The boys are not only being benefited by your unselfish service but their parents as well.

"From all along the line I have high praise of your work, and all the members of the Moline Council Boy Scouts of America join with me in grateful thanks for your continued interest.

"You are certainly building a monument for yourself in the minds and hearts of the people of this community in which you can well take much pride."

Thomas L. Finnegan, the scout executive of Camp Kewanee, Shady Beach, Geneseo, Illinois, wrote to the Davenport Public Museum under date of Aug. 4, 1921: "On a recent visit to 'Camp Mansur,' the Boy Scout Summer Camp at Moline, I had the privilege of meeting Professor Paarmann, who was conducting nature and bird study work at their camp. So thoroughly impressed was I with his work that it prompted me to write you asking for his services at the Kewanee Boy Scout Camp at Geneseo, Illinois."

Edward Crowder of the Y. M. C. A., Davenport, wrote under date of April 20, concerning his nature talk before a group of Y. M. C. A. boys in April, 1927: "I want to express to you again my sincere appreciation of your talk last night and I am sure I express the sentiments of the group also in saying that everyone was greatly interested and helped.

"To me it means more than just the matter of one or more talks because I know to you at this time it was a real sacrifice to make this special effort and had I known that so few of my group would have been present, I would not have felt like suggesting your name to the young man who asked you. However, we never know but what talks to small groups make more impression than they sometimes do to large gatherings. At least one boy in the club said to me that never before had he been interested in a discussion of birds and he said it must have been because of the personal touch you connected with your talk.

"As it is not likely that I will again call upon you to serve the Y. M. C. A. while I am here, I want you to know that I appreciate more than I can say, your willingness to cooperate in our program during the years of my service here. The great diversity of knowledge which you have of nature is so unusual and so unobtainable in most communities that it is a real privilege to have a man such as you, with whom to work in the effort to serve the boys and men of a community and when you add to that the willingness which you have always shown to render this service it makes it an outstanding connection in all my association service. I have also learned to know and love you as a friend and I shall ever keep in mind our pleasant associations."

Museum Talks

Prof. Paarmann made many museum talks beginning under the auspices of the Davenport Academy of Sciences and continuing under the Davenport Public Museum. He could present a subject to school children in a very simple and yet correct way and this is a rare ability. As early as 1904 he began this feature of the Academy work. The following is a splendid outline of the subjects treated, and how, by his "A suggestive list of museum talks to the school children."

THE MINERAL KINGDOM

1. Building stones and clays—formation, composition, uses in building and in the arts.
2. Metals and crystals.
3. Coal—origin, formation, coal plants, peat, kinds of coal, petroleum, natural gas.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

1. The Jelly-fish and its fairy-like life (illustrated with lantern slides).
2. Corals; how they grow and form reefs.
3. The Starfish and his cousin, the Sea Urchin.
4. Some curious facts about the Crayfish.
5. How animals are protected by their colors.
6. Birds of Davenport and vicinity.
7. The Water Birds (for advanced grades).
8. The Land Birds (for advanced grades).
9. Birds of Mexico (for advanced grades).
10. Four-footed friends.
11. The Fur Seal and Seal Fisheries.
12. Any subject in human anatomy or physiology.

RACES OF PEOPLE

1. The Mound Builders; 2. The Indians; 3. The Esquimaux; 4. The inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific.

These talks were made in the Davenport Academy rooms.

The desire to make use of the museum in the Davenport Academy of Science no doubt soon caused him to feel that the academy could function better as a public museum than as an academy. In 1902 he made this appeal: "Definiteness of purpose, some ulterior end, to which we are moving in our undertakings. True many things will happen which may divert our aims from their original directions, but this is of minor consequence; the vital question is whether we are looking toward some definite end, or whether we are shooting at random.

"By what methods are we to accomplish these ends, and cultivate public spirit through the material in its immediate neighborhood, through habitual contact of youthful minds and beautiful surroundings, ingratiating a desire for the best things of life. * * *

"Even science may be lighted into a fairy-land; and instead of something cold and cheerless, treating only of decayed and mouldy things, become a living, moving thing, an enlarged romance."

Lectures on Mammals

The following excerpt of his lecture on the small mammals common in eastern Iowa delivered between 1904 and 1906, shows the manner in which he treated a subject:

THE GNAWING ANIMALS (RODENTIA)

Species and individuals very numerous and widely distributed over the earth; mostly herbivorous; all obtain food by gnawing; no canines; incisors rootless and growing continually, with enamel only on outer surface. The success of this group of animals is due to their shyness, habit of hibernating or of storing away food for winter, and utilization of vegetable matter in all its forms (roots, bark, leaves, fruit, etc.)

1. SQUIRREL FAMILY (SCIURIDAE)

Tree squirrels—Example—Fox squirrel, abundant.

Rock squirrels—Example—Chipmunk, common in woods.

Ground squirrels—Example—13 lined *Spermophile*, abundant on prairies.

Prairie dog—not found here.

Woodchuck—quite common.

Flying squirrel—not abundant.

2.—MOUSE FAMILY (MURIDAE) AND RELATED FAMILIES

Mouse—several species—abundant everywhere.

Rat—common everywhere.

Muskrat—common near water.

Pocket gopher—common on prairies.

3. HARE AND RABBIT FAMILY (LAPORIDAE)

Cotton-tail—abundant everywhere.

4. BEAVER FAMILY (CASTORIDAE)

Beaver—not found here.

FLESH-EATING MAMMALS (CARNIVORA)**1. MARTEN FAMILY (MUSTELIDAE)**

Weasel, Mink and Skunk—all common.

Ferret—domesticated, brought from Europe.

Note—The cat, dog, fox, etc., belong to the carnivora.

Moles and shrews (insectivora)—abundant.

Bats (*Chiroptena*)—Bat—abundant.

These lectures were always accompanied by many references to the literature so the student might look up the matter. The lectures on animals living at the bottom of the sea were equally entertaining. These lectures were worked out between 1904 and 1906, and show his knowledge of the subject:

CORALS

Development—Egg free-swimming; becomes fixed, cup-shaped polyp. The polyp—

Principal parts: Stomach, mouth, tentacles, skeleton.

(No head, brain, eyes, ears, heart, blood, or lungs.)

How food is obtained: Food consists of Protozoa; tentacles contain numerous lasso cells, or nettle cells, from which tiny threads are discharged, the threads paralyzing the Protozoa with which they come in contact, the Protozoa then being washed into the mouth of the polyp, passing down a very short gullet into the stomach, the water issuing again from the mouth, carrying with it the waste products.

How polyps increase in numbers.

First—By means of eggs.

Second—By budding; those originating as buds remaining permanently attached to the parent polyps, thus forming a colony.

Kinds of coral—Hard, or stony corals: skeleton calcareous; includes all of the reef-building corals. Flexible, or horny corals: includes the fan corals, organ pipe coral, precious coral.

Remarks—The specimens exhibited in museums are merely the hard or skeleton parts of the coral. In life these are covered with a jelly-like flesh of various colors.

HYDROIDS

Differ from corals in having polyps joined by flexible, hollow stems; polyps of two kinds, nutritive and reproductive, the latter often becoming free, and being then known as medusae, or jellyfish. (Not all species of jellyfish originate from hydroid colonies).

SPONGES

No distinct polyps; the stomachs in the form of channels with small inhalant pores and large exhalant pores. Examples: one of the commercial sponges; one of the coarser sponges; a glass sponge (Venus' flower basket).

OTHER ANIMALS ASSOCIATED WITH CORALS, HYDROIDS, AND SPONGES

Starfish, serpent-star, basket-fish, sea-urchin, sand dollar, crinoid, sea cucumber, oyster, sea-horse.

He also gave interesting lectures on people of the cold lands in which he took up the geography of Arctic America, habitations, the winter and summer homes, hunting, fishing, the reindeer, musk ox, bear, salmon and birds. Then gave a list of specimens in the museum:

DRESS—Figures of man and woman, dressed in typical costumes; head of child (wax model); boots worn by women; birdskin quilt; skins of reindeer, seal, and polar-bears; tobacco pouch; watch pocket.

HUNTING AND FISHING IMPLEMENTS—Small harpoons for spearing seals at breathing holes; bladder-dart; bird spears; large harpoon with line and float, for hunting seals, in kayaks; lance for killing all kinds of game after it is speared with the harpoon; throwing sticks, for giving greater speed to the harpoon; air-bag for towing seals; killing knife; flint and iron harpoon heads; fish net.

TRANSPORTATION—Kayak from Greenland; model of skin boat for three hunters; paddles; boathoods; models of sledge and snow shoes.

IMPLEMENTS—Fire-making, apparatus; boring apparatus; horn spoons; ivory needle case; wooden snow spectacles; box made in the form of a seal.

GAMES, TOYS AND ORNAMENTS—Masks used in dances; stone lamps, toy animals; toy sledges; toy boats; dolls; ornaments made of seal intestines.

NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS FROM ARCTIC REGIONS—Mounted, specimens of Polar Bear, Fur Seal; Ermine, Ptarmigan, and various sea birds; mounted head of reindeer, Glacier bear; tusks of the walrus and narwhal; bones and whalebone obtained from the whale.

His lecture on primitive cloth making was prepared between 1904 and 1906 and delivered many times, discusses the subject under skins of animals, ready made clothing obtained from plants as bark, shirt tree (*Lecythis*), tapa, and leaves, plaiting and matting, weaving, the loom, the warp.

Lectures on Weeds

In an early lecture on friends and enemies of our gardens he discussed weeds of cities and towns, and how to kill weeds, birds as weed destroyers, and poisonous plants, and then lists the following weeds of Davenport:

- Amaranth—waste places.
- Aster—several species.
- Black mustard—waste places.
- Bootjack—moist ground.
- Burdock—waste places.
- Cocklebur—fields and waste places.
- Dandelion—fields, lawns, etc.
- Dock—fields, lawns and waste places.
- Dog fennel, Mayweed—waste places.
- Evening primrose—fields and waste places.
- Finger grass—everywhere.
- Foxtail—everywhere.
- Goldenrod—several species.
- Giant ragweed—fields and waste places.
- Hedge mustard—waste places.
- Horse radish—gardens and moist ground.
- Jimson weed—gardens and moist ground.
- Knotweed—yards and waste places.
- Lady's thumb—waste places.
- Lamb's quarters—gardens and waste places.
- Wild lettuce—rich soil.
- Mallow—yards and waste places.
- Milkweed—several species.
- Morning glory—gardens.
- Panic grass—everywhere.
- Peppergrass—everywhere.
- Plantain—waste places, yards, etc.
- Poison ivy—river banks and woods.
- Prickly lettuce—becoming common.
- Purslane—gardens and waste places.
- Rough pigweed—gardens and waste places.
- Shepherd's purse—gardens and waste places.
- Small ragweed—fields and waste places.
- Smart weed—gardens, moist waste places.
- Spurge—waste places.
- Squirrel tail grass—everywhere.
- Sunflower—several species.
- Sweet clover—waste places.
- Thistle—several species.
- Velvet leaf—waste places and gardens.

In a companion lecture, "How Weeds Scatter Their Seed," he discussed under weed migration by natural means e. g. wind, water, animals, weed migration aided by man, and gave some general methods of killing weeds.

Bird Studies

Birds always interested J. H. Paarmann. There were the cheery songs of the brown thrasher, the mocking bird and other birds, and added to that, the fine plumage and the great economic value to agriculture and horticulture. He tells us in his own words in the *Newton Daily News* of April 26, in an address to the children of the Newton High School: "The birds are my greatest helpmates, they do not only sing for me and help to keep me happy, but they help me with my work. He has learned to give the whistle of the chickadee and other birds and in his lecture Tuesday afternoon amused the children by giving bird calls."

He was responsible for starting the Audubon Bird Club in Davenport.

In a most interesting article on "Protect Birds in Winter, and They Will Protect You in Summer," Prof. Paarmann made this statement in the *Davenport Times* of Jan. 5, 1916: "At our south window, these winter days, we enjoy the luxury of a continuous vaudeville performance, with box seats for the whole family. A couple of weeks ago, on Dec. 20, to be exact, I put up a little shelf just outside the window, to see if we couldn't coax the various birds that remain in winter, to come up to feed. The fun that we and our friends have gotten out of this probably justifies me in telling how we did it, and so enable us to share the sport with any who may care to make the experiment.

"Well, going back to the making of the shelf, I no sooner had it hung to the window sill, and left it for a minute to watch a brown-creeper running up a nearby tree, than along came my first customer, a funny little black-faced chap, a chickadee, probably building inspector for the birds, hopping around on my unfinished shelf. There was nothing to eat on the shelf—now what attracted this bird—he never came to the other windows of the house? He no doubt had been visiting such window shelves at other places, and knew a bird-restaurant when he saw one.

"We then put food on the shelf—peanuts, sunflower seed, nut kernels and bread crumbs—and after two or three days our customers began to multiply. A week after the shelf was put up, I arranged my work so as to be near the window, and kept watch for an hour and a half, from 9 until 10:30 o'clock in the morning.

"During that time there were at the shelf 132 visits from chickadees; 32 from nuthatches; 13 from tufted titmice; 12 from bluejays; and from a redbellied woodpecker, or total of 189 visits in one hour and a half. The downy and the hairy woodpeckers did not show up, but both came many times later in the day. The flicker and the red-headed woodpecker also pay us occasional visits. They are good customers of my competitor and neighbor, Dr. K. H. Struck, and the red-headed woodpecker being of a somewhat quarrelsome disposition anyhow, we are not advertising our shelf to him. Trusting that he is not a reader of *The Democrat*, he probably will forget us in time. Do the birds fight over their food? Well, it was enough fun to chase away the gripe, to

watch a bluejay and a red-headed woodpecker the other day. They sat on opposite edges of the shelf and ate, looking suspiciously at one another out of the corner of their eyes, when suddenly the woodpecker would make a lunge at the bluejay, holding his bill wide open in a terrifying attitude. This is a fair sample of what occurs every day.

"There is a good deal of comedy about this bird business. The other day I noticed a chickadee sitting in a bush with a big piece of suet in his bill. I whistled the chickadee call, and he very politely answered, dropping his piece of suet to the ground. All of the birds that come to our shelf have been observed hiding food. When they have eaten all they want, they may often be seen industriously making trip after trip, from the shelf to some hiding place, taking a half peanut kernel at a time. The nuthatches and woodpeckers may be seen hiding food in the crevices of the bark of trees. One day my neighbor, Dr. Struck, noticed a nuthatch hiding piece after piece in the bark of a certain tree, and as soon as the nuthatch was out of sight a downy woodpecker would creep around from the opposite side of the tree and steal what the nuthatch had hidden.

"And now after feeding these winter birds, are we getting anything out of it besides a lot of fun? Look at those chickadees, nuthatches, and various kinds of woodpeckers, creeping over the barks, trees and shrubs. In between the meals which I give them they ply their legitimate business of keeping trees and shrubs free from larvae of insects that are in hiding there for the winter. In every tree I see them, there are so many at work, all helping me to take care of my plants so that these may give us pleasure after our winter friends have left for their summer vacation.

"Try it at your home, and success to you."

This interesting note occurs in *The Davenport Democrat* of Feb. 13, 1916: "Geo. Stevens, bird lover and wild animal enthusiast of Duluth, Minn., in company with his wife, spent several days in Davenport the past week, visiting at the home of J. H. Paarmann, curator of our local museum. Following the example of the snow birds, they left the region of the pine woods where everything is buried under three feet of snow, to enjoy the hospitality of the Davenport bird lovers, arriving here, however, by a roundabout way, having first made a tour through Southern California."

Geo. Stevens says, "It was at the home of Mr. Paarmann, on Clay Street, that we were entertained and met our bird friends above stated, and who was responsible for our introduction. In behalf of wild life and humanity combined we wish that more people might realize the pleasure there is in caring for the birds and the wonderfully interesting pastime it affords, as well as profit to the community at large; and we are glad to learn that the bird work is being introduced into the manual training department of the Davenport schools, and that the children are taking part in the good work."

Then Prof. Paarmann says: "The other day I raised the window and a chickadee came into the room and ate out of my hand, but he could

not find his way out, so I had to catch him and put him outside. The chickadees and a number of other birds have a habit of hiding what they do not want for immediate use. One day last week a friend opened a window and a chickadee came in, hopped onto the kitchen table, and ate to his heart's desire, and when he had eaten enough he picked up a large peanut kernel, hopped onto a newly ironed shirt, and hid the piece under the shirt collar. After a half hour he came again, and finding nothing on the table to eat, flew straight to the hiding place and pulled out his peanut kernel, meanwhile looking very independent."

His lectures were so interesting that the layman greatly appreciated his services. Carl Le Buhn, one of my own good students and president of the Davenport Kiwanis Club, wrote as follows: "Your unusual and very interesting lecture, delivered last Friday before our club, was most fascinating. The average business or professional man knows very little about the number of birds and their habits and it is the opinion of a good many of our members with whom I talked after your lecture that this information should receive wider distribution with a view to better co-operation in protecting certain beneficial song birds in a more systematic way."

Prof. Paarmann is responsible for an interesting campaign against the English sparrow. Miss Sheldon writes me in regard to this campaign started in 1917: "Then came 'The War' when energies were dulled and turned aside to personal fatalities. But in the interest of bird population and incidentally humanity a campaign was instituted against the English sparrow, and carried on for three years, and 'went over the top,—1917-1919. Cooperation among business and commercial houses was substantial."

He says: "After several years of work in behalf of the birds, such as conducting bird house contests, supervising winter feeding, etc., it became clear that little permanent good could be done until the sparrow problem had been solved. To the writer, who has been interested for many years in bird conservation, was intrusted the conducting of a campaign to eliminate the English sparrow from the city of Davenport.

"One year's work has eliminated practically all of the street feeders and most of the residence sections, except around poultry yards, have been almost cleared. In two years' work the flocks around mills and elevators have all decreased from thousands to probably 10 or 20 individuals. In the various railroad yards the decrease is from 40 to 95 percent, being least where waste grain is plentiful. The number roosting at night on the store fronts of the retail district at the beginning of our campaign was so large that a complete count was difficult. Partial counts in certain sections showed a decrease of 75 percent during the winter of 1916-'17."

This work attracted much attention. W. C. Henderson of the Bureau of Biological Survey wrote as follows: "James Silver of this bureau has informed us that you have an additional copy of your detailed report on the English sparrow campaign conducted a few years ago in Davenport. Information of this kind is of great value to us in connec-

tion with our economic work in ornithology. If you still possess an extra carbon copy of this report, I should greatly appreciate receiving it, and if use is ever made of portions thereof, due recognition will be given to its author."

He was much interested in bird houses and an exhibition was made under his direction for the Davenport Public Museum. "A Bird House Contest," the bird club for which he was sponsor in 1914 heartily responded in this contest, some 93 separate exhibits were made. The extension bulletin No. 32, Iowa Agricultural College, and extension bulletin No. 38, 1916, states:

"These contests were started in a number of cities, namely: Davenport, Rock Island and Clinton. In connection a letter from A. C. Smith of Clinton, Iowa, dated March 12, 1921, shows how his work on bird houses became generally known: 'In accordance with the conversation which some of our members have had with you recently, we understand that you are perfectly willing to come to Clinton to judge bird houses which will be in our contest this spring. They will be ready by next Friday morning. It was also suggested that perhaps you could bring up some slides and give us a talk similar to the one you did last year, which was greatly appreciated, and we would be glad to hear you again.

I am adding as an appendix to this account his unpublished notes on Bird Calendar for Davenport given to his field classes and bird clubs:

By "Davenport area" is meant the region within a circle with 50-mile radius and with Davenport as a center.

Omitted from this list are the water birds, game birds, and birds of prey. These will appear in a later list.

MARCH

1. Permanent residents (with us all the year)—Hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, prairie horned lark, blue jay, crow, English sparrow, goldfinch, cardinal, white-breasted nuthatch, tufted titmouse, chickadee.

2. Winter residents (spend summer farther north)—Evening grosbeak, American crossbill, redpoll, pine siskin, tree sparrow, slate-colored junco, Bohemian waxwing, northern shrike, brown creeper.

3. Migrating through in March—Rusty blackbird, purple finch, Leconte's sparrow, white-throated sparrow, swamp sparrow, fox sparrow, golden-crowned kinglet.

4. Summer residents arriving in March—Kingfisher, northern flicker, phoebe, red-winged blackbird, meadowlark, bronzed grackle, field sparrow, song sparrow, towhee, cedar waxwing, migrant shrike, robin, bluebird.

Note—Some of these may arrive in February.

APRIL

1. Permanent residents.

2. Winter residents. Four of the winter residents listed in our March calendar have probably gone north; the following are generally still with us during a part of April: Evening grosbeak, American crossbill, tree sparrow, slate-colored junco (snowbird), brown creeper.

3. Migrating through in April—The species migrating through in our area in April include all that are listed as March migrants, and, in addition, the following: Yellow-bellied sapsucker, Smith's longspur, Savannah sparrow, white-

throated sparrow, clay-colored sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, black and white warbler, myrtle warbler, pine warbler, palm warbler, American pipit, winter wren, short-billed marsh wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, gray-checked thrush, olive-backed thrush, hermit thrush.

4. Summer residents—Some of our summer residents were already here in March. The following are due to arrive from the south in April: Whippoorwill, chimney swift, kingbird, cowbird, vesper sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, lark sparrow, chipping sparrow, dickcissel, scarlet tanager, purple martin, cliff swallow, barn swallow, tree swallow, bank swallow, warbling vireo, Louisiana water-thrush, catbird, brown thrasher, western house wren, prairie marsh wren, blue-gray gnat-catcher.

MAY

1. Permanent residents (same as in March).

2. Winter residents—The slate-colored junco may still be with us early in May, and the American crossbill, although rarely observed, throughout the month.

3. Migrating through in May—Olive-sided flycatcher, yellow-bellied flycatcher, least flycatcher, white-crowned sparrow, *clay-colored sparrow, *Lincoln's sparrow, swamp sparrow, Philadelphia vireo, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, *black and white warbler, Nashville warbler, orange-crowned warbler, Tennessee warbler, western parula warbler, Cape May warbler, black-throated blue warbler, *myrtle warbler, magnolia warbler, cerulean warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, bay-breasted warbler, black-poll warbler, blackburnian warbler, black-throated warbler, *palm warbler, Grinnell's water-thrush, Connecticut warbler, mourning warbler, Wilson warbler, Canadian warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, *golden-crowned kinglet, *ruby-crowned kinglet, Wilson thrush, *olive-backed thrush, hermit thrush.

The Connecticut warbler is probably our latest migrant in spring.

Species marked * pass through our area in both April and May.

SUMMER RESIDENTS

Many species of our summer residents arrived from the south earlier in the season; the following are scheduled to appear early in May, most of them coming the first week: The ruby-throated hummingbird and the wood pewee, perhaps our latest arrivals, come about the middle of the month.

Yellow-billed cuckoo, black-billed cuckoo, red-headed woodpecker, nighthawk, ruby-throated hummingbird, crested flycatcher, wood pewee, green-crested flycatcher, trail flycatcher, bobolink, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, rough-winged swallow, red-eyed vireo, bell vireo, prothonotary warbler, oven-bird, northern yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, redstart, wood thrush.

RARE STRAGGLERS

This list may offer some excitement to the confirmed "bird fan." To observe one of these birds in our area is a rare treat. Reports of the occurrence of any of these species will be appreciated.

1. From the south—All of the following except the prairie warbler and blue grosbeak are very common summer residents as far north as southern Illinois, many as far north as southern Iowa. Occasionally a few individuals stray north of their usual limits, and nest within our area.

Summer tanager, white-eyed vireo, worm-eating warbler, sycamore warbler, prairie warbler, Kentucky warbler, hooded warbler, mockingbird, Carolina wren, Bewick wren (observed annually on home grounds, Davenport, by J. H. Paarmann), Carolina chickadee, blue grosbeak (rare in southern Illinois). (Observed at Walcott, Iowa, May 10-12, 1926, by Mrs. J. H. Paarmann).

2. From the west—The western meadowlark is common in western Iowa

and may perhaps occasionally venture farther east; it is doubtful if any of the other species are ever observed in our area.

Red-shafted flicker, western nighthawk, Sennett nighthawk, Arkansas king-bird, Say's phoebe, Montana junco, yellow-headed blackbird, western meadow-lark, Brewer blackbird, chestnut-collared longspur, McCown longspur, Harris sparrow.

3. From the north, in winter—Arctic three-toed woodpecker, horned lark, Hoyt's horned lark, American pine grosbeak, white-winged crossbill, snow bunting, Lapland longspur (abundant in prairie regions).

DOUBTFUL

1. Probably absent from this region—Northern hairy woodpecker, northern pileated woodpecker, American raven, Clarke's nutcracker, thick-billed redwing, Baird's sparrow, western grasshopper sparrow, intermediate sparrow, yellow-throated warbler, long-tailed chickadee, chestnut-backed bluebird.

2. Data incomplete—Alder flycatcher, Henslow's sparrow, Nelson's sparrow, white-rumped shrike.

Note: This completes the list of birds, except the following: Water birds, game birds, birds of prey.

Davenport, the City Beautiful

During the late years of J. H. Paarmann's work he became well known because of his interest in beautifying the city of Davenport. The following expresses his idea of beauty:

"Prof. J. H. Paarmann, curator of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, delivered a stirring address Monday afternoon at Library Hall before the members of the Women's Club. He took for his subject the important topic of 'A More Beautiful Davenport,' and handled the subject in a masterful manner, impressing upon his hearers the importance of a unity of effort in the beautification of our city. 'Co-operation for beauty of architecture can be obtained by uniformity of style,' said Prof. Paarmann. He pleaded for cleaner alleys and back yards. 'Make a paradise of your back yard,' he said; 'do not have a marble front and tin background to your homes. Spend more money making summer resorts in your own back yards. Plant and cultivate grass plots, trees, shrubbery and flowers.

"'Beauty is but one of many qualities for which every progressive city should strive,' said Prof. Paarmann. 'If we were to write out a formula for a successful city, we would designate that conditions must be favorable to the health of the people, that cleanliness should be everywhere, from the alleys to the river front, and from the depths of the sewer up to the awe-inspiring smokestack. Without adequate educational advantages we would eventually be shaking hands with Mephistopheles. As the blood carries nourishment to all the tissues of our bodies, so commercial prosperity brings us the wealth which is necessary in order that we may obtain the proper materials for the various other activities of the city.

"'The fair little village of Davenport was born beautiful, crowned with a circlet of bluffs covered with majestic oaks, the Father of

Waters gliding swiftly at her feet, magnificent views up and down the valley, and across the stream towards her equally beautiful sisters, Rock Island and Moline. But a child that is born beautiful may have many defects before it grows to maturity. So with our city.

"We must first aim to preserve as far as possible, the beauty which she has inherited. In making the changes and additions that are necessary in providing homes and workshops for men, we should endeavor to make that which is new harmonize with that which is already in place; that is, with the natural scenery and with neighboring structures. New additions are laid out, in which the streets are platted according to the taste to the owner of the addition, and not according to a unified city plan. Streets are laid out at right angles to one another, and at approximately equal intervals without any regard to the contour of the land, often necessitating deep cuts with steep sides, or expensive fillings, with low-lying worthless lots alongside. Every man owning a piece of property builds thereon anything he pleases, as far as architectural effect is concerned. Along the streets anybody plants what trees he likes, and cuts it down or disfigures it, and nobody molests him. Without co-operation, there can be no unity of effect in beautifying our city.' "

His lectures were superbly illustrated. The city beautiful was his theme. His lectures and advice on the subject began to be greatly appreciated. J. E. Krouse of the City Beautiful Committee of the Davenport Rotary Club wrote to him the following:

"As chairman of the City Beautiful Committee of Rotary, we will perhaps in the spring be called upon to furnish some part of the program and after your very able showing of pictures at the last meeting, it occurred to me that if you could in a short discussion teach the balance of the membership to practice the same keenness of observation as you have accomplished, it would be very instructive and beneficial.

"The thought being, that if we were instructed how to observe the beauties of our own community, parks, home sites, and general scenery, that it would be the means of much greater appreciation of our community by those who live here and perhaps hold a view that some other place is more beautiful. This is merely a thought at this time and I would be interested in knowing your views on the matter."

Edward Crowder wrote: "The crowd expressing their appreciation for your lecture last night was such that I could not get to you just as you finished, so I will tell you now what I had in mind then.

"I was very much interested and pleased with the 'Possibilities of Beautifying the Home.' Your pictures were the best I have ever seen both from the standpoint of the artistic choice of subjects and coloring which was wonderful.

"I have had many expressions from the men present praising your last night's talk and I am sure they were all very much pleased."

Alvin Burger of Webster City, under date of Sept. 25, 1922, wrote as follows: "The Women's Bureau of our Chamber of Commerce are to conduct a Chamber membership meeting at noon, Friday, Oct. 6.

They want that Davenport Rotary Club speaker to come over and tell us how they put the big work over in your fine city. When in Des Moines you told me of some speaker we ought to have on this subject, a man who, if I recall, had a lot to do with managing the Davenport campaign. I wonder if you can secure him for us—or anyone there who was connected with the campaign and is a good speaker—that is, a fair one.

"You told me the Rotary Club also has a set or two of slides bearing on the subject. We can get a machine if the speaker will bring the slides with him."

Here is an outline of one of his lectures on Gardens delivered before the Tri-City Garden Club on Feb. 19, 1924, with his outline as follows:

"Introduction Garden Plan—Ideal plan, public area, private area, formal garden, conservatory.

"Screens and vistas—Peony border, trees, rose arbor and border, brook and flowers, haying scene.

"Foundation planting—Front of house, entrance porch, front of terrace, at porch, front of terrace, at porch pillars, house.

"Service above self—Fundamental principles, shrubbery flanking house, informal border; peonies, accessible from house.

"Indoor gardening—Screening service area, screening neighboring buildings, accents for sky line, vista, lilac and tulip, spiraea and barberry, shrubs and flowers, spiraea, summer and winter effects.

"Vines—On stucco house, woodbine; on porch pillars, woodbine; on wall of house, woodbine; on house, Boston ivy; on retaining wall, matrimony vine.

"Water gardens—Pond, iris border; pool, water lilies; pool, various plants; pool and fountain, various plants; pool, waterlilies, verbenas border; Japanese garden, ledges with petunia.

"Attracting birds—Bird bath, with water lilies and iris; bird bath, with iris; bird bath, with belladonna, delphinium; nest site, tree with vines; nest site, dense clump of barberry; in winter, shrubs with berries.

"Springtime—Cherry orchard, peach and cherry, wild crab, spiraea, Madam Chereau iris, iris and peonies, lilies.

"Rose garden—*Rosa setigera*, American beauty climber, climbing roses on low trellis, pergola with various roses, arch over walk, with Dorothy Perkins roses.

"Summer and autumn—Hollyhock border with verbenas, etc.; August flowers, border of phlox, hardy hydrangea in front of terrace, sumach near foundation, fall coloring.

"Winter—A late March snow.

"Drives and walks—Drive through woods, drive with petunia border, entrance drive, service walk, service walk with high bush cranberry, winding walk among shrubbery, stepping stones to bird bath, walk with peony border, brick terrace with petunia border, stone steps, stone steps with Fitzer juniper border, path among shrubbery showing seasonal changes.

"Children in the garden—Child and madonna lilies, child with wheelbarrow, children enjoying the garden.

"Living in the garden—Garden seat from Venice, under lawn as a dining room, under the umbrella, under the oak tree.

"Conclusion—A September morning, light and shadow, moonlight over the valley, a vista, near the end of the day, close of the season, rest.

"A contributor last year to *Farm and Garden* spoke of great success with lilies of the valley after fertilizing the bed with cotton seed meal. The bed should be raked, strewn thickly with the meal and then covered with an inch of good soil to prevent caking of the meal. After this treatment much greater inflorescence may be expected."

To him there was also a close association of this garden revelry with the message of the flowers whispered through the ages from the tomb of the young Egyptian king, Tutankhamen, who has held the front page for the past year. He must have been beloved by someone who loved flowers. The gold and lapis lazuli headdress worn by his image on the top of the mummy case was encircled by a wreath of natural flowers, the Associated Press was careful to tell a waiting world. Could anything have shortened three thousand years so much as the discovery of that wreath of flowers?

In a report of a lecture before the students of the Junior High School of Newton as reported in the Newton *Daily News* of April 26, 1922:

"A lecture which has been looked forward to by the people of the city was given Tuesday evening in the Junior High School auditorium when J. H. Paarmann, of the Davenport Academy of Science gave an illustrated talk on the work which he and the Rotary Club of Davenport accomplished in a clean-up campaign held in that city last year.

"His pictures in themselves told a story. Old run-down shacks were portrayed before the clean-up committees started work and they were later shown covered with vines and ornamented with flowers and the yards were transformed into bits of earthly paradise. He showed the pictures of his own home and of his flowers, shrubbery, ornamental trees and all of the best plants which mother earth offers. He said that anyone could have the same sort of yard as his own if they would but devote a little of their spare time to this outside work. He gives us this idea on adorning the farmstead: 'In the adornment of the home surroundings of most of the places entered in the farm improvement contest, the most striking feature was the extreme neatness of everything about the house, including lawns, driveways, fences, and gateways. Cement walks connect many of the homes with barns and other farm buildings.

"'While as a rule the lawns about the house are well kept they could be made more cheerful and more interesting by careful planning, and by adding varieties of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Artistically laid out driveways and gates, bordered with groups of shrubbery, would make the lawn more inviting. There should also be plantings of masses of shrubs and flowers near the house foundation and the lawn fence, also where unsightly views need screening. The farmer's wife, as she looks out the kitchen door, would probably not object to a little green back yard with a border of shrubs and flowers.

"'Trees are more interesting when planted in variety. The soft maple is practically the only shade tree in many of the farmyards of the county. Neither shade trees nor shrubbery should be planted in straight rows. The shrubbery should be planted in masses near buildings, fences, or driveways, leaving open spaces of lawn. Beautiful surroundings make home life healthier and happier,—let us have as much of it as possible.' The subject of planning and adorning the farmstead is well treated in Bulletin No. 126, of the Iowa State College, and may be secured from Prof. Bliss, at the Davenport Commercial Club."

Bees and Honey Plants

Prof. Paarmann somewhere in the twenties became interested in honey plants. I told him of my interest in the matter. He made many fine observations. Unfortunately none of these notes so far as I know have been published. His bee cultural work, a diversion, was carried on at his home. Many personal observations were made. This research work was important. He began to give lectures beautifully illustrated with colored lantern views. Photographs made by himself and colored by Miss Sheldon only as an expert can finish them. Dec. 10, 1926, he gave an illustrated lecture at Springfield, Ill., at the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association. E. R. Root, of the A. I. Root Company, heard the lecture, and he wrote to Prof. Paarmann as follows:

"I certainly enjoyed that splendid stereopticon address of yours on the honey plants that you had seen. The photographs were some of the best I had ever seen, and the color work of the slides themselves the very best. John H. Lovell, of Waldoborough, Maine, you are possibly aware, has written a book for us on the Honey Plants of North America. I am sending you a copy of this with my compliments. If you should, perchance, run across any errors, either in the spelling of Latin names, or errors of statement, I shall be glad to have you point them out. In the meantime I hope you will find it useful and helpful in your work. While it probably will give you no new information regarding the honey plants that have come under your direct knowledge, you may find the references to others very helpful. I hope some day that the beekeepers of Ohio can hear that splendid illustrated address of yours at a time and place when you will have more time to cover your subject."

Another letter follows: "Your letter of Dec. 23, in reference to the book which we are sending you Honey Plants of North America, has been received. You probably have it by this time. At your convenience we would be glad to have you make any criticism, suggestions or corrections that may occur to you, because we regard you as one of the authorities on honey plants in the United States. While we, of course, knew of you and your work, we did not know that you had specialized in plants that deal with nectar and pollen, and it is for that reason we are very glad to make your acquaintance."

The following interesting letter from Miss Sheldon shows how thorough a student he was: "If anybody knew anything about bees, habits, care, plants, etc., Prof. Paarmann did, practically, theoretically, inside out, and outside in. He was known to all apiarists around here; lectured in Springfield, Ill., and other places; sold slides of honey plants to various universities.

"His notes cover the most minute details of daily observations for a period of years, and he should be given credit for the exact research work which he has contributed to this subject.

"He entertained both Prof. Paddock and Prof. Pellett at his own house, and at the bee-meetings made special demonstrations of his own colonies. He sent two or three boys to Ames for special study in api-

culture, and those courses they followed enthusiastically for entering the business."

Indian Mounds

J. H. Paarmann for many years had been interested in Indian antiquities. He made some exploration of Indian mounds and certainly added some valuable data on Indian mounds and mound builders, as for instance, the work on the Albany mounds.

Exploration of the Albany mounds, in 1905-6, a few miles up the Mississippi from Davenport, was scientifically carried on. Survey, careful measurements, photographs showing important facts in construction, burial rites, and articles, made this work very important. These results he embodied in a paper fully covering the subject, and well illustrated, and ready for publication.

It still remains unpublished. The continued exploration of these mounds in 1908 by Nickerson was under his supervision.

The Davenport Public Museum as is well known has an unusual collection of material from the Mississippi Valley mounds. He had considerable correspondence from such men as W J McGee and Wm. C. Mills. To Mills he wrote for information to do field work in a study of Indian mounds. Clarence B. Moore, who wrote concerning meteoric iron in an Indian mound. Paarmann replying, calls attention to the finding of iron in Albany, Illinois mounds, then he refers to his finding iron in the lower level of the mound. In a later letter he states that he is not an anthropologist. There is much unpublished material in the academy. In a letter to Dr. Moore, Prof. Paarmann wrote: "Upon looking over my unfinished business I was surprised to find that I had not yet answered your inquiry of October 28th in regard to some iron which I found in a mound near Albany, Ill., in the fall of 1906. Nothing has as yet been published regarding any of the finds in the mounds which we opened near Albany in recent years. At the meeting of the Iowa Anthropological Association, held in this city May 17 and 18, 1907, Dr. A. W. Elmer read a paper entitled 'Iron Found in the Albany Mounds,' in which is given a resumé of the finding of the iron in mounds, but this paper has not yet been published.

"The two small pieces of iron which I found were lying with the other relics at the lower level of the mound. They were lying on a piece of mica. I sent one of the specimens of iron to Dr. Wm. E. Ford, of the Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven, Conn., who returned the material with the following remarks: 'I have examined the iron pieces and have found a considerable amount of nickle in them which proves I think that they are undoubtedly of meteoric origin.' "

To a correspondent at Andover, Mass., Warren K. Moorhead, he sent some of his fine photographs of the problematical forms he found.

To another correspondent, G. F. Laidlaw, he sent a fine sketch of the pipes found in the Davenport collection.

Dr. Max Witte made an unusual request of Prof. Paarmann to get

some information about the poor teeth of the mound builders, whether they were decayed before death.

During his curatorship much was added to the collection of mound builders and Indians, not only his own valuable material, but in 1911-1912, C. A. Ficke gave the academy a large collection of pottery which made it necessary to revise the other exhibits in the collection. During the World's Exposition at St. Louis in 1904, Prof. Paarmann had charge of the Davenport Academy Archaeological exhibit at the exposition. Mr. W J McGee, who had general charge of the Anthropological exhibit, writes as follows: "Yours of the 21st is at hand, and I am delighted to know that your plans for the Davenport Academy exhibit are so well advanced. In view of the character of other exhibits, it will, I think, be preferable for you not to attempt to exhibit your pottery, etc., but to make your exhibit a representative one for a typical region—the Davenport region.

"The exposition will open a week from today, and installation must be completed by the evening before. It will accordingly be desirable for you to get off Tuesday or Wednesday. Your best procedure will be to bring the most precious collections with you as hand-baggage, and bring the bulkier part of the collection (packed in a trunk or chest) as personal baggage, if necessary paying the excess baggage charge." Professor Paarmann received a silver medal for the display shown there.

All of this was a part of the work of the Davenport Academy of Science.

Scientific Work of the Academy

Dr. H. P. Armsby, who was appointed by Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations as chairman of a commission on agricultural research, was desirous of getting information of agencies doing research work other than the experiment station. Professor Paarmann answered that: "Among the various lines of work pursued by the Davenport Academy of Sciences may be mentioned the following as bearing upon the subject of agriculture:

"(a) Research work in the natural sciences and economic entomology, and the publication of papers on these subjects.

"(b) The maintenance of a reference library, a large part of which consists of books on natural science and agriculture.

"(c) The giving of public lectures.

"(d) Talks to the school children.

"(e) The maintenance of a museum."

Interest in Trees

Trees interested him very much. An unusually fine lot of photographs were taken of trees to show the bark, leaf, flower, and fruit. He knew the species well. Nut bearing trees interested him in 1918, as

will be seen from an answer to a letter written to him by Willard G. Bixby of Brooklyn, N. Y., as follows: "I learned of your name and address through Mr. Arthur E. Kelley, of the John F. Kelly Co., Davenport, to whom I wrote early in the year asking about the butternut trees in your vicinity and explaining that in the interest of the Northern Nut Growers' Association, I was seeking a superior butternut with the idea of propagating same by grafting or budding, and he suggested that I might get this information by writing to you." The reply was as follows: "Replying to your letter of Oct. 4th, I wish to inform you that the butternut is only fairly common in this region, not nearly as numerous as the walnut. While the walnut develops pretty good-sized nuts with plenty of meat, the butternut fruits are rather undersize, I should think, with rather small, shriveled-up meats. I have made no study of the variations in these fruits. Mr. Henry Guerink, residing at 1321 West Eighth Street, Davenport, Iowa, owns a farm three miles south of Walcott, Iowa, on which there is a planted grove containing 40 butternut and 25 walnut trees. I boarded at the place when I taught a country school way back in 1894, 24 years ago, and the trees, as I remember them, were then about eight inches in diameter. I called up Mr. Guerink this morning and he told me that the trees were still in fine shape."

His Conservation Interests

His interest in conservation began in 1913, when he desired to have birds protected by providing places for them to breed. I recall the visit I had with him when the State Board of Conservation desired to secure the Wild Cat Den area for conservation and state park purposes. He entered with enthusiasm with the project for the purpose of enlisting the cooperation of the citizens of Davenport. It was to preserve the fine plants so that others might enjoy the privilege of seeing nature in Iowa as it once was. He thought areas near Davenport, also suitable, should be preserved for future generations. He enlisted my sympathy for a Scott County park project. On the occasion of my visit to Wild Cat Den, Muscatine County, Prof. Paarmann took a fine lot of photographs of plants and scenery as only an expert can do. He often represented the Davenport Academy and later the museum, and in 1920-1921 he was delegate to the Conservation Conference at the United States Biological station at Fairfield and the Chicago meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and later in the American Association of Museums in Chicago in 1908. The Davenport museum may well be proud of the work Paarmann did for it.

Additions to the Museum

He added much to the museum of his own rich findings and the gift of many others like the splendid altruistic work of C. A. Ficke, who gave a large oriental collection to the museum of which the Davenport

Democrat of Nov. 17, 1924, says: "Walking into the Forbidden City of Peking 1,000 years ago with Buddha, calm faced and beneficent, gazing down upon you; brushing past the steel helmets and the wicked shining blades of Japanese Samurai which had seen bloody service in far-away Nippon long centuries past, and gazing with awe on ghost daggers and prayer wheels brought by the English military adventurer, Col. Younghusband, from the mysterious land of Thibet, we were taken yesterday through the C. A. Ficke collection which will be open to public inspection in the Academy of Sciences next Sunday afternoon.

"It is a rare and valuable collection, gathered together during Mr. Ficke's three tours of the Orient. Since the middle of August, when the collection reached Davenport, Curator J. H. Paarmann and a corps of assistants at the academy have been busy arranging and cataloging the hundreds of rare, ancient and interesting relics which tell so much of the slant-eyed orientals' art, customs, religion and history in bygone centuries. * * *

"Then there is a case filled with relics from the Japanese stone and bronze age. There are dozens of stone arrowheads similar to those once manufactured by the American Indians, and bronze weapon heads that mark the next stage in the civilization of the ancient Nipponese. Dozens of other valuable and interesting objects, too numerous to mention, comprise the exhibit and make it well worth inspection by everyone who is interested in things oriental and ancient."

Nature Study

His ideas on the subject were well put forth in an outline report he made for the academy in 1910: "The value of nature study as a means of training the senses and of furnishing thought material for the various modes of expression is admitted by all educators. The specific purpose of the subject should be to cultivate in the child the ability to obtain, at first hand, information about the material world in which he lives, and to use this information as a means of making him a better citizen. Incidentally the child is brought into sympathy with his surroundings, and is given a healthful source of pleasure. Genuine culture should include the ability to obtain enjoyment from simple things. Increased power of perception, expression, original investigation; better citizenship; and simpler modes of living are among the chief aims of nature study.

"To increase this educational value in the various departments around which our work has been centered, we have attempted to secure it by means of local natural history surveys, printed helps in the study of our plant life, distribution of material for planting, instruction in nature study to children in the public and other schools, lectures.

"Early in July it was decided to open a vacation school of nature study. Three classes were formed, one for adults, one for boys, and one for girls. These classes met weekly for half a day at a time, beginning with the second week in July. The first work taken up by the boys' class was an exploration of Duck Creek, from its source to its

mouth; after that a study of the natural history of the arsenal was begun. The girls' class studied the wild flowers of the arsenal, and for comparison visited a half dozen other places. The thought which we tried to keep uppermost in the minds of the children was the adaptation of plants and animals to their surroundings. Incidentally we studied geographical features and whatever else came in our way. On the approach of cold weather indoor work is substituted for field work, the boys meeting in the morning and the girls in the afternoon on Saturday. For the winter's work we are studying our common fur-bearing animals. Our plan of study is as follows: After a short talk by a member of the museum staff, each pupil is given an animal for study. With this menagerie they seat themselves around tables and consult the library for additional facts about the specimen before them. Then they tell what they have read. After this a half hour is devoted to talks on various subjects given by the pupils and illustrated by means of views thrown on the screen with the opaque projector. The work of the winter is intended as a resumé of last summer's field work, and as a preparation for the field work of the coming spring and summer. The average attendance for boys was about 35 for field trips and for indoor work. The girls averaged about 20 in attendance, for field trips, and 10 for indoors. The adults' class has held weekly meetings, with an average attendance of 15, since its organization early in July. About two months were spent in the study of trees in Vander Veer and Fejervary parks. Then Miss Louise Falk, a graduate of Colorado University and a specialist in the lower orders of plants, took up the subject of mushrooms with the class, the class doing field work while the weather permitted, and continuing with laboratory study and indoor lectures. Miss Falk has taken up with the class a most practical as well as interesting subject, including the mushrooms, the moulds, mildews, yeast, bacteria, and plant diseases.

"Teachers of some of the schools participate in some of these excursions, which suggests another feature well worth while.

"It is well known that the child imitates to a certain extent at home what he experiences at school. So, keeping in mind that the school ground is primarily a playground, I would recommend that it be in addition a model of landscape gardening, in which the pupil might gain inspiration, a knowledge of good form and color, ideas of order and neatness, and many other virtues that would create in him a desire to better the conditions of his home grounds and the city streets. Groups or borders of trees, shrubbery, and perennial flowering plants, planted around the playground or near the buildings would not interfere in the least with the use of the ground for play."

Great Work of Professor Paarmann

Prof. Paarmann made a large place for himself in Davenport. His fame as a lecturer and a nature guide went far beyond the limits of Scott County. When the history of the Davenport Academy of Science

and later the Davenport Public Museum are written a large place will be given to him. Prof. Paarmann was a lovable man, a man of unusually fine personality. People came to him because they liked him. They gave to the museum because Paarmann was in it heart and soul. The *Davenport Democrat* of July 15, 1927, said of him: "Mr. Paarmann possessed a kindly nature. It has been said of him that he was never known to speak a cross word. He did for others as freely as he would for himself." He will be hard to replace.

E. K. Putnam in the *Davenport Democrat* says: "While many of the older citizens date back to the days of Pratt and Barris, the younger men and women of today and the boys and girls just out of or still in school will associate the museum with J. H. Paarmann, who was curator from 1902 until his untimely death last July. Mr. Paarmann re-established the school work commenced by Mr. Pratt. The 'bird man,' as he was called, had a natural love for nature and the ability to make it interesting. He was a man of unusual versatility which made him very useful when the expanding museum made it necessary for him to turn from starfish to scarabs, from bobolinks to buddhas and from mending pottery to photographing beautiful gardens. He could talk with serious visitors on almost any subject, or take children or adults out on a bird hike. He never lost his enthusiasm and good spirits and while busy with the things of today he was always planning ahead.

"While it may be said there have only been three curators, Pratt, Barris and Paarmann, there have always been many voluntary assistants. Most noteworthy of these perhaps is Miss S. G. F. Sheldon, who took hold in the interim following Dr. Barris' death and then continued as a voluntary assistant to Mr. Paarmann for 25 years and now is giving her full time toward the continuation of his work.

"During Mr. Paarmann's term the collections more than doubled and the field covered vastly enlarged. Most noteworthy perhaps were the gifts from Davenport's world traveler and collector, the Hon. C. A. Ficke, who brought home a 'whole churchful' of rare and beautiful things illustrating the art of China, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Mexico and Peru, and other parts of the world. In addition to the important gifts to the museum Mr. Ficke also collected the oil paintings which form the basis of the Municipal Art Gallery Collection. The display of this material, as well as other collections given by many individuals, has made the museum a source of attraction both for local and out-of-town visitors. Frequently on a Sunday afternoon there are three or four hundred visitors and there are two records of a thousand.

"Such, in brief outline, is the romantic story of the 60-year-old 'academy' which has developed from a group of scientific men to a museum covering art and history as well as science and ready to serve the community as do the other great museums of the country. In view of its expansion and development it is now more fittingly named 'Davenport Public Museum.' "