

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

January 18th. 1909.

My dear Miss Scripps:-

A week has passed since I returned to Berkeley from my Eastern journeyings and I have been trying all the time to decide what of my observations would be most interesting and profitable to you.

The welfare of the book, that prospective child of my brain, the gestation period of which has been so long and anxious, and in whose interest the trip was primarily made, is uppermost in my own mind at the moment, so I naturally assume that you too will be anxious(?) for information about it.

I found Mr. Henry Holt, the founder of the publishing house and now past seventy, a most genial, agreeable gentleman to talk business with. Seemingly there is no difficulty in getting a book printed. The next problem is to get it read, and the next and most important of all is to get people to pay attention to what it says even if they do read.

I made a solemn promise to myself and the publishers to mail a completed copy of the MS. to New York in May next; so with the numerous other more or less harassing demands upon me, my hours for sleeping, eating and otherwise caring for the machinery will have to be held down, low down, during this period.

As bearing upon Station matters--the other thing lying nearest my heart--I looked into two or three things that greatly impressed me. First of all comes the New York Aquarium. The mode of support, and the patronage should be, I believe, of decided importance for us. It is by considerable the most visited place in Greater New York. More than 2,500,000 people passed through its turn-stiles last year. Admission is free, the City paying the Bills. The City has however, nothing to do with its management. That is done solely by the New York Zoological Society, a strictly private scientific organization. Not only does the City government place a sum of money--about \$45,000 a year--in the hands of the Society for the Aquarium, but it actually requested the Society to take charge of the institution. The Director tells me that never during the seven years of his incumbency, has there been the first hint of political intervention in connection with the forty, more or less, employees.

The partnership that has been entered into between the City government of Greater New York and the N.Y. Zoological Society is most suggestive it seems to me. The Society manages some five or six institutions of various kinds, including natural history museums and the truly magnificent Zoological Park. Both parties to the combination contribute funds for the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

things to be done; but everywhere all expenditures of money in carrying out the particular objects of the institutions, is strictly in the hands of the Society.

Is not here an idea and a precedent that may be a God-send for us of the San Diego Station? Of course our conditions are so different that we could make use of the idea only with ~~very~~ important modifications. The possibilities I see in this make me question seriously whether an alliance with the City of San Diego rather than with the University of California is not what we want; and the business and organizational side of the problem appeals to me almost as much as does the scientific.

I am feeling more and more that the welfare of the Station calls for my being freed from most of my obligations to the University in order that more time may be devoted to the Station. But this is a large and difficult question and cannot be gone into in a single letter. It seems to me though that we must face it soon.

This letter is of course, for E.W. as much as for you. You will know the time in his affairs when he can best read it.

It is naturally a satisfaction to find that here and there ~~at least~~, a Biologist in the East sees the great significance of what we are trying to do at San Diego. For example C.B. Davenport, director of the station at Cold Spring Harbor, remarked that a thoroughly endowed marine station would mark an epoch in the development of marine biology, and he said that if our ideas can be carried out we will surely have the greatest station in the world.

It is also interesting to see how self-satisfied, or thick-pated, or something even men of science can be. The Wise Men of the East do not as a rule, propose to add anything from the West to their stock of wisdom. But that's all a matter to be chuckled at rather than distressed by. It is perhaps ungracious for me to make these remarks for Section F. (Zoology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was so considerate as to elect me as its chief officer for the next term, and I'm sure this was done quite as much in recognition of my connection with the San Diego Station as of my scientific work.

I do hope the New Year is beginning well and will continue to go well to the end.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. E. Ritter.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

April 28th. 1909.

My dear Miss Scripps:-

Of course it is more to your interest that I should do my work than that I should be writing personal letters to you. Nevertheless there has been simmering in my mind for weeks the gist of a letter which even now I cannot take time to write. This letter of Professor Kofoid's however, must have a few companion lines.

The thing of practical importance immediately is the matter of piping, to which he has given special attention wherever he has been. For this reason, after you have finished with it, will you kindly send it to Dr. Baker and Mr. Wangenheim, asking them to return it to me.

The big things Kofoid sees for the Station are naturally not bigger than what I see, because I suppose I am largely responsible for their being thus big. But now that the task of doing my part in making the bigness actual and not merely possible is "up to me", the bigness ~~of the task~~ looms up before my face portentously. But it's to be my days work now. The point is, I'm going to be in a good mood physically and spiritually to throw myself wholly into Station work when I get to La Jolla.

When once the MS. of my book is actually put in the post office to go to the publisher, I think I shall jump a mile high for joy. I'm letting everything else "slide" now, (so far as possible with any semblance of professional decency) to prepare myself for that high jump. I'm still hoping that jump-day will come some time in May--but Lord! how these last chapters hang on!-----I must go at 'um again, so good bye for this time.

Mrs. Ritter is improving steadily, has made visible improvement this past week.

Most sincerely yours,

Wm. E. Ritter.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

May 6th. 1909.

My dear Miss Scripps:

Since what I am going to say in this letter would be sheer bombast to anyone but two or three of my closest friends, it is for you and your brother alone.

I am putting in the whole of every day and as much of every night as I can conscientiously steal from sleep, in order to get my affairs so shaped that I can start for La Jolla June first. But I do not know that I shall quite make it. You may not see me till a few days later. This being the case it is due you to know something of what in my judgment, is at stake.

As you already know, finishing "The Book" is the all-consuming task on my hands now. Were it merely a matter of finishing I could get through on schedule time easily enough. But I must finish the thing as I have done the rest of it, with all there is of me. You know the best ^{and efforts} years of my life have gone into this task.

So far as I can see-- but of course the future is a dimly lighted region-- if what I am saying in this book is consequential at all, it is little if any less so than what Darwin said in the "Origin of Species". Should this turn out to be so, the same old "lambasting" is in store for me from all directions that has befallen every man who has ventured to do otherwise than lockstep with his times in matters where any particular thinking is concerned. The truth is, what I interpret as premonitions of the storm have already reached my ears from several quarters. Considerable part of my business now is

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

consequently, to make my ship snug so that if a typhoon does come I may lash myself to the bridge-rail and say "let her blow"! (I am to be a half-way seaman, or at least a water-front man hereafter you know) I hope never to feel with old Gonzalo "Now would I give a thousand furloughs of sea for an acre of barren ground.-----The wills above be done! but I would fain die a dry death".

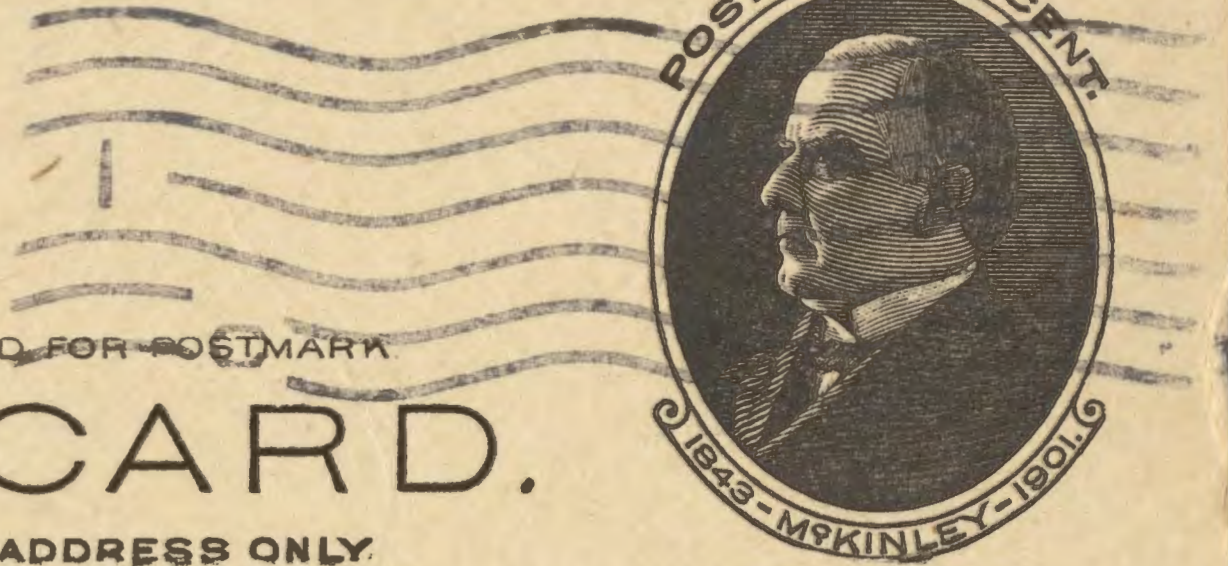
To be more precise, I must be near the University Library for one thing, until this work is done.

Mrs. Ritter appreciates your kind invitation, but it would be July first before I could get off if she should desert me, as she does everything except the actual writing and research. She is driving me hard to keep up with her and if it is within human power she will see that we get off on schedule time.

With very kindest regards from us both,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. E. Ritter.



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK

POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Miss Ellen B. Scripps,
La Jolla,
Calif.

Los Angeles, June 3

Dear Miss Scripps,

Am spending the day here
with the intention of going to S.D. by to-
night's "Owl." Shall consequently, be in

La Jolla some time tomorrow. Mrs
R. remains in Fresno for some days
yet to have doubly work done.

Hoping to find you at home and well

Yours sincerely,

W. S. Ketter.