Theodore W. Torrey

It is difficult to conceive that four decades have elapsed since Dean Fernandus Payne persuaded Theodore W. Torrey to accept a position on the faculty of the Department of Zoology at Indiana University. Dean Payne was convinced that advances in zoology, and indeed in biology in general, would be made by the new experimental approaches to the age-old mysteries of living processes. He chose the young Dr. Torrey, who had obtained his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1932 after earning his baccalaureate degree from the University of Denver in 1927, to introduce the concepts and methodologies of experimental morphology into the biology curriculum.

The wisdom of the appointment was evident almost immediately, because shortly after arriving on the campus Professor Torrey was asked to assume responsibility for the undergraduate and graduate programs in embryology. His versatility and the excellence of his training under the late Professor G. H. Parker enabled him to reorient his research interests from the mechanisms involved in taste-bud regeneration in catfish to the even more challenging studies of the development and function of the vertebrate kidney, includ-

able to those who dissented. More recently, he was actively involved in the committee deliberations which led to the transformation of the Junior Division into the University Division.

Although Professor Torrey's teaching and research have been impressive, his greatest contribution to the University is his performance during the eighteen years he served as Chairman of the Zoology Department. His cooperation with other departments in the biological sciences led to the creation of interdepartmental courses and their cross-listing, to the development of courses for non-majors in an effort to broaden the cultural background of students and, finally, to the expansion of offerings in all major areas of teaching and research, especially in experimental biology. He consistently recruited outstanding faculty members and supported their research activities. The Department prospered greatly under his quiet but firm leadership, and the success of his guidance is evidenced by the fact that the Zoology Department has been ranked repeatedly among the top ten departments in the United States.

My relationship with him as a colleague and friend has been an enriching experience. All of us in biology at Indiana University, past and present, owe an inestimable obligation to him for his effectiveness in advancing the biological sciences and for his leadership in undergraduate education at this university. He has been a good life, a rich and rewarding life, and we wish him well in the years ahead.

W. R. Breneman