

ARTHUR SPERRY PEARSE  
1877 - 1956

Dr. Arthur Sperry Pearse, past president (1925) of the Ecological Society of America and editor of **Ecological Monographs** from 1930 to 1950, died on December 11, 1956, at the age of 79.

Dr. Pearse was born in Crete, Nebraska, on March 15, 1877. He attended the University of Nebraska where he received the B. S. Degree in 1900 and the A. M. Degree in 1904. During the period between 1900 and 1906, Dr. Pearse taught in secondary schools in Nebraska and Illinois. He then attended Harvard University, where he was awarded the doctorate in 1908. During his undergraduate days, Dr. Pearse is reported to have been an outstanding football player at the University of Nebraska. During the Spanish-American War, he served with the Nebraska Volunteers.

Dr. Pearse's many accomplishments as a teacher, writer, and investigator are well known. During his professional career he taught at several schools, including the Universities of Michigan, the Philippines, St. Louis, and Wisconsin. In 1927 Dr. Pearse became associated with Duke University, where he has been Professor Emeritus since 1948. In 1929-1930, he was visiting professor at Keio Gijuku, Tokyo.

Throughout his active life, Dr. Pearse carried on investigations in ecology and parasitology. The subject matter of his research varied from early studies on the habits of fiddler crabs and the food and habits of fresh-water fishes to studies on the freezing point of blood of marine animals and investigations of mites associated with land crabs. In later years, Dr. Pearse was much interested in the ecology of soil invertebrates. Dr. Pearse played an active part in the Carnegie Institution and Duke University Biological Expeditions to Yucatan in 1932 and 1936. He founded and for several years directed the Duke University Marine Laboratory.

Dr. Pearse is the author of several books, ranging from **Hell's Bells**, a series of essays incorporating the author's personal beliefs and philosophy, to the well-known texts **Introduction to Parasitology** and **Animal Ecology**.

The diversity of Dr. Pearse's activities and interests has allowed the sharing of his personal pleasure and satisfaction with a great number of colleagues and friends. In the introductory sentence of one of the chapters in **Hell's Bells**, Dr. Pearse writes that what every man most desires is to be successful. There can be no doubt about the extent to which Dr. Pearse achieved his goal.

Dr. Pearse is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Oliver Lehmer Pearse of Durham; a daughter, Mrs. William Henry Caufman of Roanoke, Virginia; and a son, Dr. Richard L. Pearse of Durham, North Carolina.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

C. C. Hoff

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Committee on Resolutions

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