

Comm. 1951

MARSTON BATES

Mr. President, it is with honor and privilege that I present to you a scientist whose fruitful career in zoological research has contributed much to the benefit of biological and social man, and whose special interest is in the relationships between the biological and social sciences.

He is holder of a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, and of the master's and doctorate in zoology from Harvard. His field investigations on animal distribution in the West Indies, on mosquitoes and malaria in Albania and Egypt, and on yellow fever in Colombia have earned him special recognition by the Rockefeller Foundation, whose president he assisted in investigating means for implementing a program of cultural biology, and also by the University of Michigan where he is now a professor of zoology.

Throughout his teaching, whether in his lectures or in his books, his errand is admittedly missionary — to convey an attitude of science rather than to impress with the facts of science. In this he succeeds admirably, indeed, uniquely. Nowhere in his analyses within special fields does he lose sight of the relationship of that field to the whole of nature — an enviable perspective.

He is author of many competent technical papers as well as of four outstanding books: "The Natural History of Mosquitoes" — recognized as the basic book on the subject; "The Nature of Natural History," which relates the field of science to human problems and which includes a delightfully stimulating philosophy of biology; "Where Winter Never Comes," a study of nature and man in the tropics; and "The Prevalence of People," a book which applies current biological and sociological thinking toward an understanding of the human population situation of today.

I present to you one of those rare scientists who can correlate theory and function within the field of biology and who can also relate biology to other sciences — Marston Bates, to receive, upon recommendation of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, the honorary degree, Doctor of Science.