

Cernosvitov made a detailed investigation of the resorption of spermatozoa in the Oligochaeta (1930) and the Turbellaria (1931 and 1932), and in 1930 he published a critical review of the literature of this subject for the animal kingdom in general. He concluded that the phenomenon was of widespread and normal occurrence, and speculated as to its physiological role. From this he took a special interest in the little-explored field of hormones in the Invertebrata.

In Dr. Cernosvitov we lose not only an able zoologist, but also a colleague of singular personal charm. He married, in 1944, Miss Nina Gartman, who is of Russian birth but British nationality, with whom all who knew him must feel the keenest sympathy. Sympathy must be felt too for his mother and brother, now in Paris, for whom the shock of his death is added to the dreary war years of uncertainty and separation.

E. TREWAVAS.

Dr. Thomas Barbour

By the death of Thomas Barbour on January 8 at Boston at the age of sixty-one, the result of a stroke, the United States loses one of its leading biologists and Harvard one whose name will always be associated with the great Agassiz Museum. He was a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences; while bodies outside the United States which had honoured him included the Zoological Society of London, which made him a foreign member.

In early life Barbour was closely associated with the Agassiz family, but his inclinations led him mainly to the study of land animals in relation to their environments. Few knew Florida so well, for his family had lived in the Everglades in friendship with the Seminole Indians, in a quite unopened country, shell and pottery mounds, swamps, forests, islets and mangrove swamps. He knew the Miami River as an almost uninhabited area, and for all his life fought to preserve Nature in this sole tropical area of the States. He visited it yearly and helped to found its University and Marine Research Laboratory.

Barbour passed an extended honeymoon, wandering, collecting and observing from Burma and Indo-China to New Guinea. On his return he settled in Boston and commenced his long series of systematic publications incorporating his field observations, principally dealing with the reptiles. He led several fossil 'digs' and wandered over most of the West Indian islands.

During the War of 1914-18 he was sent with a commission to cement a most doubtful friendship with Cuba, its temperament so different from that of Latin-America. Physically he was a very big man, a demon for work, vivacious, with a great capacity for friendships. He commenced a life-long attachment with that remarkable naturalist Carlos de la Torre, at one time president of the Republic, and was received informally and joyously by the intelligentsia all over the island, while everywhere researching and collecting its fauna. He specialized on birds, and from his notes grew the standard work on those of Cuba. Every winter he visited the island, and his support was sought for every educational development. He helped in the growth of the great Soledad gardens and established its important, and much-visited, Harvard House. Other activities in this region were at Panama and Miami; and he visited and advised upon the Kruger National Park in the Transvaal.

A man is perhaps best seen in his miscellaneous writings: Barbour's were "The Naturalist at Large", "That Vanishing Eden", "A Naturalist in Cuba", all written in partial retirement, old-fashioned in form but entirely modern in outlook. The man was a delightful personality and he made a grand time living his life. He was a friend to all science in the States, and a host to visitors to Harvard.

J. STANLEY GARDINER.

Dr. E. J. H. Mackay

THE Watumull Prize for 1945 of the American Historical Association, offered for works dealing with the history of India and published during 1941-44, has been awarded to the late Dr. Ernest Mackay for his last archæological report, "Chanhu-daro Excavations, 1935-36", a fitting tribute to a long career of valuable archæological field-work. Unhappily, the award must be a posthumous one, for Dr. Mackay died on October 2, 1943, at the age of sixty-three, through the strain of four years of service as an A.R.P. warden.

Dr. Mackay began his life's work under the ægis of the late Sir W. Flinders Petrie, one of whose greatest services to archæology was the training of almost an entire generation of British excavators who have worked in Egypt and Western Asia. After nearly four years of work for Mr. Robert Mond among the Tombs of the Nobles at Luxor, Mr. Mackay served with the Egypt Expeditionary Force in Palestine and Syria, and in 1919 was British member of the International Commission appointed by Lord Allenby to survey and list the Holy Places and sites of archæological interest in those countries for their protection and preservation.

After an interval as 'custodian of antiquities' in Palestine, Dr. Mackay went to Iraq in 1922 as the first field director of the Oxford University and Field Museum, Chicago, Joint Expedition to Kish; and in March 1925 he discovered the small but important mounds of Jemdet Nasr, a key site for the early history of Sumer. A call to assist with the excavations of the Archæological Survey of India at the great Indus Valley site, Mohenjo-daro, took him to India in 1926, and when the financial crisis of the early thirties compelled the abandonment of active excavations, he compiled his "Further Excavations at Mohenjo-daro, 1927-31", two volumes, a fine sequel to the great three-volume work, "Mohenjo-daro and the Indus Civilization", published in 1931, in which he collaborated with Sir John Marshall and others.

During 1935-36, under the joint auspices of the American School of Indic and Iranian Studies and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Dr. Mackay excavated Chanhu-daro, Sind—a site which produced evidence of two cultures subsequent to the Harappa culture (of the city of that name and Mohenjo-daro), a first step towards bridging a long dark gap (c. 2500-1500 B.C.) in the history of India before the coming of the Aryans.

As the only field archæologist to have excavated in all the three great river valleys—the Nile, Euphrates and Tigris, and the Indus—chief centres of early civilization in the ancient world, Dr. Mackay's numerous volumes and articles are of especial value for their wide appreciation of the contacts between the ancient peoples, racial, of art and religion, and by trade.