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OBITUARIES

Sir Peter Henry Buck, K.C.M.G. (Te Rangi Hiroa)

THE death of Sir Peter Henry Buck (Te Rangi Hiroa) on December 1 brought an end to one of the most extraordinary and distinguished careers the world has known. His passing is a bitter loss; but he has left to us a priceless heritage. The influence of his warm and charming personality will endure so long as there are people who had the privilege of knowing him. The results of his lifelong efforts to describe accurately the arts and crafts of the peoples of Polynesia will remain as landmarks of scientific study in the field of anthropology. His contributions to our understanding of people and their problems are being incorporated as a part of an enduring body of knowledge about mankind.

Sir Peter was born in New Zealand on August 15, 1880. His father, William Henry Buck, was an Irishman; his mother, Ngarongo-ki-tua, was a native Maori of high status. After spending most of his younger years among his mother's people, he married Margaret Wilson, of Gremouth, New Zealand, in 1905 and entered the University of New Zealand. Receiving his M.D. in 1910, he served as a member of the New Zealand Parliament until 1914. From then until 1919 Dr. Buck served with the first Maori contingent of the New Zealand Medical Corps

in Egypt and Gallipoli, achieving the rank of major. During this period his wife was a hospital nurse in London and in Alexandria. They were decorated for their war services, Mrs. Buck with the M.B.E., and Dr. Buck with the D.S.O.

After the War, Dr. Buck became director of Maori hygiene in New Zealand, leaving in 1927 to serve as ethnologist for the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. In this latter capacity (accompanied by his wife) he made numerous field trips to the islands of Polynesia to collect detailed information on native customs, which served as the basis for his many publications on Polynesian ethnology. Since they were able to speak the native language of the people they visited and enjoyed intimate knowledge of one Polynesian society, the Maori, they accomplished far more in their research than would otherwise have been possible. In 1936 Dr. Buck was made director of the Bishop Museum and professor of anthropology at Yale University. In 1946, he was made a knight commander of the order of St. Michael and St. George in recognition of his scientific research.

CLELLAN S. FORD

Dr. Arthur Bulleid

DR. ARTHUR BULLEID, who died at his home. Dymboro, Midsomer Norton, Somerset, on December 27, at the age of eighty-nine, will be best remembered as the discoverer of the Iron Age 'B' site known as the Glastonbury Lake Village.

Bulleid, who was by profession a medical practitioner, had an early opportunity of cultivating a taste for archæology, and having read Keller's bock on the Swiss Lake dwellings, Munro's "Lake Dwellings of Europe" and other works, he became imbued with the idea that remains of a somewhat similar nature were to be found in the swamps of central Somerset. So, in his rambles over the moors, he was on the look-out for possible sites, and he visited peat-cutting operations in the vicinity. A little later, he found the mounds about a mile north of Glastonbury, on the road to Godney, which raised a suspicion in his mind that they were artificial. Certain remains which turned up on mole-heaps settled the point, and Arthur Bulleid got into touch with Dr. Robert Munro and Sir W. Boyd Dawkins and other archeologists. This resulted in the British Association forming a Lake Village Committee in 1893, and making monetary grants from year to year towards the work. The excavations, however, began in 1892 under the direction of Dr. Bulleid : they were found to be unique and became widely known.

In the same year, due to Bulleid's inquiries and his keenness, a flat-bottomed dug-out boat, 17 ft. in length, was recovered at some little distance from the lake village, and is now preserved in the Glastonbury Museum.

The first series of excavations extended until 1898; then there was an interval of six years, except for a comparatively small exploration conducted in 1902 by Mr. H. St. George Gray. Further operations were resumed in 1904 under the joint direction of Dr. Bulleid and Mr. Gray. This work was completed in 1907. In 1911, Vol. 1 of a large fully illustrated report in royal quarto size was published, followed in 1916 by Vol. 2. Before the issue of Vol. 1, Messrs. Bulleid and Gray began a long series of excavations in 1908 on the site of the neighbouring lake village at Meare, which is in two separate areas known as