

dence of all the others, and is regarded as the legal wife, *anasi*, who is priestess of the household gods. Belief in the survival of the soul prevails, and adequate burial of the dead is a matter of great concern. A first, necessarily hurried burial takes place soon after death, but a second more elaborate and very costly "burial" by proxy is performed later, with the view of keeping the spirit of the deceased in contentment. Failing this propitiation, the spirit may become restless and malignant. Reincarnation is believed in. Children are well treated and thrive, and although their treatment is often very drastic and appears cruel, the parents evince great fondness for them. Twins, however, are held in abhorrence. In this respect the Ibos differ from the neighbouring Etoi, who welcome twins. Boys are initiated into the mysteries of the Ayakka secret society at the age of ten.

The secret societies are dealt with by the

author in detail, and the religion and superstitions are well, if briefly, described. The chief deity is Abwala, and at her shrine oracles are sought and "trials" are conducted. The priests, in consequence, exercise a great controlling influence, as is so often the case in Africa. The arts and crafts and the trading methods are interestingly dealt with, and one feels that the author has command of more information than could be published in a single volume. The illustrations are excellent and fairly numerous. One wonders why the household god called in the text *Ikenga* (p. 219) is designated *Skenga* on the plate (p. 120), and why the illustrations are sometimes inserted far from the text to which they refer. It would have been advantageous if all native names had been printed in italics. Such minor blemishes, however, do not materially lessen our appreciation of this very useful and instructive volume. Both the author and his readers may be congratulated.

### Obituary.

PETER DONALD MALLOCH.

ARDENT naturalists in humble ranks of life during last century, such as Edwards, of Banff, and Robert Walker, of St. Andrews, in zoology, and Sergeant Sim, of Perth, in botany, have not been rare in Scotland, but few showed more acute penetration, combined with artistic skill and fitness for administration, than Peter Donald Malloch, the premier angler and skilful taxidermist, as well as the originator and able administrator of the Tay Salmon Fisheries Co.

A native of the neighbourhood, Malloch spent most of his life in the Fair City, taking the foremost place, after the death of Mr. Lamb, as a taxidermist (many examples of his skill being now in the Perth Museum), then well known for his remarkable success as a practical angler, and, lastly, as manager of the salmon syndicate just mentioned. It was in Perthshire that the artificial hatching of the salmon at Stormontfield ponds first attracted the attention of men of science in the fifties and early sixties of last century, and the work of Robert Buist, Wm. Brown, and John Dickson made it widely known. Malloch, however, following these, and in the unique position he held on the finest salmon-river in the country, one which carries the largest body of fresh water to the sea, was able to clear up certain ambiguities, and though he had no training in science he grasped the information derived from an investigation of the scales of the salmon, sea-trout, and other fishes, and worked out their life-history with great accuracy and acuteness. In 1910, indeed, he collected all his information in an interesting work entitled "Life-history and Habits of the Salmon, Sea-trout, and other Fresh-water Fish," a work illustrated by as many as 239 exquisite life-like photographs—mainly by himself.

Malloch's observations on the various classes of

salmon ascending the rivers, and a comparison of their movements with those of the sea-trout (the latter feeding in fresh water, whilst the salmon does not), are of great interest and value in this complex subject. He believed that almost all salmon in the sea make for the rivers where they were born. He had some hesitation in accepting the view that some of the parr become smolts at the end of their first year, but old "Peter of the Pools" at Stormontfield would have strengthened the case by demonstrating that many of the year-old parr reared there grew apace, assumed the silvery coat, passed down the rivulet to the pen near the river, and would even leap over its edge in their eagerness to migrate seaward.

Malloch's efficient marking of the smolts with silver wire gave him much information as to the rate of growth of the salmon, irregularity in spawning, and other points. His wide experience of the Tay and other rivers and of numerous lochs enabled him to corroborate Dr. Gunther's opinion as to bull-trout, and so with his remarks about yellow fins and whitling, the young of the sea-trout. Further, the acuteness of his observations is shown by his finding a new char (*Savelinus Mallochii*, Tate Regan) in a lake in Sutherland. That he was able to accomplish so much in the midst of strenuous commercial fisheries work, comprehending the Tay from Stanley to the sea, the surveying of rivers and lochs, and the letting and sale of highland estates, shows that his capacity was of no ordinary kind. Perth has always been the centre from which has emanated much of the life-history of the salmon, and Malloch enhanced and extended that reputation. He died toward the end of May at the age of sixty-eight years.

W. C. M.

WE much regret to see the announcement of the death, from heart failure, on June 5, of Dr. A. M. KELLAS, of the Mount Everest Expedition.