

Wilkins, naturalist; Mr. J. C. Bee-Mason, photographer and kinematographer; Mr. G. Smith, second engineer; Mr. J. Dell, electrician; Mr. Harold Watts, wireless operator; D. Ericson, gunner; C. J. Green, cook; Boy Scouts N. E. Mooney and J. W. Marr. The members of the scientific staff enumerated above will also work

the ship, and on leaving Plymouth two additional members were shipped for the first part of the voyage in the persons of Mr. Gerald Lysaght and Mr. McLeod. Of the complete ship's company of twenty all told, no fewer than five accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his Antarctic expedition in the *Endurance* in 1914.

Obituary.

DR. WALTER GEORGE RIDEWOOD.

DR. WALTER G. RIDEWOOD, whose sudden death occurred on September 19, was born in London on February 1, 1867. He was educated at Enfield Grammar School, of which his father, Mr. W. S. Ridewood, was headmaster for many years. He was at the Royal College of Science from 1883 to 1887, becoming an associate and taking first classes in both biology and geology. In 1888 he took his B.Sc. degree in the University of London, with first-class honours in zoology, and in 1897 he became D.Sc. In the meantime, in May, 1888, he had been appointed assistant to the director at the British Museum (Natural History), where he was employed in making the wonderful series of anatomical preparations exhibited in the Central Hall of that institution. In this kind of work Dr. Ridewood was without rival, his extraordinary manual skill and technical knowledge being supplemented by a thorough grasp of the principles of morphology and a close acquaintance with its literature. He also organised and prepared several special exhibitions, among the most important being the Darwin Centenary Exhibition and the series of preparations illustrating the different modes of flight in the animal kingdom. This series is still on exhibition, and is an excellent example of his work. For these and other exhibitions he prepared valuable illustrated guide-books. He severed his connection with the British Museum in 1917, after twenty-nine years' service, his resignation being greatly regretted by his colleagues.

In addition to, and for the most part relating to, his work in the museum Dr. Ridewood published a long series of valuable memoirs, mostly dealing with the comparative anatomy of the Vertebrata. Only some of the more important of these can be referred to: "On the Cranial Osteology of the Teleostei" (five papers in the Proc. Zool. Soc., 1904, and in the Journ. Linn. Soc., vol. 29: these were intended to be used in a general work on the osteology of fishes, never published); "On the Air-bladder and Ear in the British Clupeoid Fishes" (*Journ. of Anatomy*,

vol. 26); "On the Structure and Development of the Hyobranchial Skeleton and Larynx in *Xenopus* and *Pipa*" (*Journ. Linn. Soc.*, vol. 26: this was his thesis for the D.Sc. degree). He also wrote on a new species of *Cephalodiscus* from the Cape Seas, and on the Pterobranchia of the Antarctic (*Discovery, Scotia, Australasian, and Terra Nova Expeditions*). His chief paper relating to the Invertebrata is the "Monograph on the Gills of the Lamellibranchia" (*Phil. Trans.*, 1903); this he illustrated by a series of models in the British Museum. His last published work is an important memoir, "On the Calcification of the Vertebral Centra in the Sharks and Rays" (*Phil. Trans.*, 1921). In this he was able to show that Hasse in his great work on the same subject had "overestimated the importance of the disposition of the calcified masses and laminae in the centrum as a taxonomic feature." Another completed paper on the development of the skull in the whalebone whales remains to be published.

Dr. Ridewood was a man of a singularly quiet and retiring disposition, which perhaps in some cases led to his real character being misunderstood. Actually his reticence was a mask covering a genuine kindness which often showed itself in the great amount of trouble he would take to help anyone who asked for his advice and assistance. During the war he drove a Red Cross ambulance in France for nearly two years.

Apart from zoology, Dr. Ridewood's chief interest was in music. He was an extremely good performer on the flute, and for many years was a member of various amateur orchestras, especially of the Strolling Players. He made a thoroughly scientific study of his favourite instrument, but does not seem to have published anything on the subject.

He was for twenty-three years lecturer on biology in the Medical School of St. Mary's Hospital, London, and was reader in zoology in the University of London. He was also a life member of the Linnean, Geological, Zoological, and Malacological Societies. C. W. A.

Notes.

WE learn from the *Times* that Sir Thomas Holland, who recently resigned his post as Minister of Industries in the Governor-General of India's Council as a protest against the suspension of prosecution in connection with alleged corrupt practices in the supply of munitions, left Simla on Friday last for England.

The whole facts of the case are not before us, but so far as we can make them out Sir Thomas Holland has been sacrificed to political expediency. In a recent speech the Viceroy, Lord Reading, suggested that the trouble would not have arisen had the post of Minister of Industries been filled by a lawyer