

where, owing to the discharge of hot sea-water from a power-station, the temperature of the water was many degrees higher than in the adjacent part of the English Channel. Monro felt some uncertainty whether the worms represented a species accidentally introduced on the bottom of a ship from a warmer climate, or whether the high temperature of the water had produced a neotenic race of a widely distributed species, *Hydroides norvegica*, showing well-marked differences in size and structural details from the typical form.

In one of his shorter papers Monro discussed the need for a re-classification of the Echiuroidea, and made some important proposals for the rearrangement and redefinition of the families and genera of that group. He was responsible for the reorganization of the starfish gallery of the Museum in 1928, and also rearranged the study collection of echinoderms in accordance with modern classification. Almost the whole of the "General Guide to the Exhibition Galleries", published by the Museum in 1931, was written by him. He edited, for publication by the Museum, a series of postcards dealing with the old herbal "Hortus Sanitatis", a task in which his considerable knowledge of medieval Latin proved of great value. One of his last official duties at the Museum was the preparation, jointly with the present writer, of a new "Collectors' Handbook" dealing with the collection and preservation of invertebrates other than insects. He wrote the section on Vermes in the "Standard Natural History" (1931), and articles on several groups of annelid worms in the Encyclopædia Britannica (14th edition). For about two years (1925-27) he was editor of the *Museums Journal*.

Soon after the outbreak of war, Monro's services were lent to the Ministry of Food, where he worked until his last illness. He had been seriously ill in 1935, and had undergone a severe operation. From that illness he had never completely recovered, and a second operation was performed a few weeks before his death. He possessed great charm of personality and a very open and upright character. He was a pleasant colleague and a good-natured companion, with a strong sense of humour and an acute and well-informed mind. Somewhat of a rebel, from his school days, against convention and what he considered social injustice, he was also interested in many aspects of learning and the arts, and was a man of very considerable culture and wide reading. He had a great love and understanding of poetry, and was deeply interested in theology and metaphysical philosophy. He always took a great delight in intellectual discussion, and many, no doubt, will remember a lecture delivered by him at a summer school at Cambridge in 1939 on the relation between science and religion. It seems to have been a desire to understand the deeper mysteries and problems of life that urged him to the study of biological science, and the same desire that led him, when already in his thirties, to embrace Catholicism, to which he was a fervent convert. He was keenly interested in the Neo-scholastic philosophy and in foreign politics, and was for a time honorary secretary of the Catholic Council for International Relations.

Until his health became seriously impaired, Monro had unbounded vitality and love of life, and of the good things it had to offer. His recreations included walking, swimming, yachting, fishing, shooting and fencing. For some years he was a leading exponent of the *épée*, being once runner-up in the British

championship and one of the British representatives in a European tournament at Le Touquet. But above all he loved the open country and the hills, and most of his holidays were spent in walking in the Lake District, in Wales or in the west of Ireland. As a boy he had spent a number of holidays in France, acquiring a fluent knowledge of the French language, and an affection for the country and its people which he never lost.

Monro was twice married; first, in 1917, to Pamela Gartside Tipping, by whom he had one son (a captain in the Gordon Highlanders, missing at Singapore), and secondly, in 1927, to Sheila Mary Anderson, who, with their two young sons, survives him.

H. A. BAYLIS.

DURING an acquaintance with Monro extending over some twenty years I have had, in common with many other zoologists, occasion to regard him with much gratitude, admiration and affection. In an era when good systematists are becoming lamentably scarce, Monro stood out as an example of the ideal systematic worker. His systematic knowledge of the Polychæta, in the first place, was wide, accurate and of an intelligent type, and coupled with the mass of detail at his finger-tips connected with the literature of the subject and the diagnostic features of the species contained in the group was a particularly useful acquaintance with their distribution and geographical relations.

Although dealing almost entirely with preserved material himself, Monro was always keenly interested in receiving news of the living animals and actively aware of the importance of their ecological relations. He was always thoroughly willing to assist ecologists by determining their material, and did it promptly and in the most helpful way. My personal gratitude to him was elicited by the assistance which he gave me in ecological work carried out during the Barrier Reef Expedition and during ten years of marine studies in South Africa. Among a group of systematists whose kind services made it possible to work out the results of these studies at all, Monro was outstanding as one of the most actively helpful: in fact, he was a member of that rather small class, the 'perfect systematists'. This was the more so because, as so many of his friends are aware, Monro was a personality of great liveliness apart from his official work altogether. Very widely read and capable of talking entertainingly and yet with balance on almost any subject, and possessed of abilities quite distinct from those required for his museum work, he was a very fully developed human being and a most welcome companion.

T. A. STEPHENSON.

Prof. Joseph Paczoski

JOSEPH PACZOSKI, professor of the University of Poznan (Poland), who died on February 14, was a distinguished taxonomist and the founder of a new branch of botany, phytosociology. We do not know all the details concerning the last period of his life under German occupation in Poland; one can imagine, however, how much he must have suffered. At the beginning of the War in Poland, immediately after Poznan had been occupied by German troops, nearly all the university professors were arrested there, they were deprived of all their personal possessions, deported to the so-called General-Gouvernement and left to starve. This was also the fate of the 77-year-old Prof. Paczoski.