

OBITUARIES

The Right Hon. Lord Moyne, P.C.

IN the preface to "Atlantic Circle", Lord Moyne says that had it not been for the South African War (for which he volunteered instead of going to the university) he would have become a biologist. A man endowed with his gifts of character and intellect, reinforced by a tireless energy and ample means, could scarcely have failed to make his mark. As it was, science had to take second place as an intermittent hobby pursued in the intervals of an exceptionally strenuous public life; and it was not until the last few years before the War that Lord Moyne was able to indulge more fully his taste for the biological sciences, among which anthropology took a prominent place.

Lord Moyne made a number of voyages in his steam yacht *Rosaura*, of which the last two, in 1935-36 and 1938, were scientifically the most important. These were no pleasure cruises. They had as their main objects the collection of ethnographical, archaeological and zoological records and specimens for the British Museum and the London Zoo, and these objects were pursued with Lord Moyne's characteristic zeal, efficiency and courage. Danger seemed to attract rather than to repel him. At any rate, he was never afraid to take risks which seemed justified by the end in view, and it was only by great skill and (it must be admitted) a fair spice of luck that disaster was averted on each of these expeditions, which involved the wrecking of his two launches in New Guinea and damage to his yacht in the pack-ice off Greenland.

These two expeditions yielded a rich harvest, which included a splendid series of photographs taken by Lady Broughton, and colour films of great beauty and scientific interest. Out of the large ethnographical collection from New Guinea and the East Indies made in 1936, the British Museum received as a gift more than three hundred selected specimens, as well as photographs, all of a kind new to science or not hitherto represented in the national collection. The majority were from the almost unexplored southern regions of Netherlands New Guinea and from the little-known Sepik and Ramu Rivers of the Mandated Territory. They included many objects of large size such as carved house posts, paddle spears and 18-ft. long blowguns, the safe transport of which would have been beyond the power of the ordinary collector without a yacht. From the 1938 expedition the British Museum received a very large and interesting collection of antiquities, chiefly pottery, excavated in the Bay Islands, Honduras. Other leading ethnographical museums including those of Oxford and Cambridge, and the Royal College of Surgeons, received a share of the spoils. Before the dispersal of his collections, Lord Moyne arranged attractive exhibitions of them at his house in Grosvenor Square (see *Man*, No. 121; 1936; and No. 71; 1938).

Lord Moyne was the first to publish records of a group of 'pygmy' folk from the Aiome Mountains on the Upper Ramu River, the average stature of which (based on a small number of individuals) was the lowest ever reported from New Guinea. These were described in his book "Walkabout", and briefly in *Man* (No. 121; 1936), while a detailed description of their material culture, written in collaboration with Miss K. Haddon, appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 66 (1936). Illus-

trated notes on some decorated shields and other specimens were published in the *British Museum Quarterly* (8, No. 129 and 11, No. 89).

Although written in narrative form, Lord Moyne's books, "Walkabout" and "Atlantic Circle", contain much scientific information, the value of which is increased by the accompanying photographs. There is also an introduction by the late Dr. A. C. Haddon and an appendix on the human crania by Dr. A. J. E. Cave in the former work. As an example of Lord Moyne's swiftness in action, it is worth mentioning that these volumes were each written and published within a few months of his return to England.

Lord Moyne had been for a number of years a fellow and a generous benefactor of the Royal Anthropological Institute, in the work of which he took a lively interest. He was elected a member of its Council in 1942. Only recently he had privately discussed his ideas for promoting archaeological research in South America, particularly the highlands of Peru, either by an expedition or other means after the War. His untimely death has thus cut short a career in which his services to science, already considerable, would certainly have been continued and added to in the post-war years.

H. J. BRAUNHOLTZ.

LORD MOYNE'S public activities left little time for detailed zoological work, but he had a life-long interest in the subject, and helped in many ways to advance our knowledge of general natural history and marine biology. He was for many years president of the Marine Biological Association and took a leading part in recent developments of the Plymouth Laboratory. In addition he was a valued member of the Council of the Zoological Society of London, and a generous donor to the collections in the Gardens.

Lord Moyne's main contributions to zoological science were the results of his yachting cruises to various parts of the world. On these he was generally accompanied by other naturalists, the Hon. Anthony Chaplin on the 1936 cruise, Captain Jean Delacour and Dr. John Colman in 1938, and Lady Broughton, whose excellent photographs help to illustrate his two books. Large and valuable collections of mammals, birds, reptiles, etc., were brought back either alive or carefully preserved, most of the live specimens being presented to the Zoological Society, and the preserved material to the British Museum (Natural History).

Among animals obtained on the cruise to New Guinea, a list of which is given in an appendix to "Walkabout", many, including two Komodo dragons, are still on view in the London Zoo. The collections of live animals brought back on this cruise alone and presented to Regent's Park included no less than sixteen species not previously exhibited in Britain.

All those who enjoyed the privilege of working with Lord Moyne have been impressed by his remarkable gifts, of which perhaps they will remember longest his thoroughness, his unflinching sincerity and his genius for friendship.

EDWARD HINDLE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. D. MacCallum Blair, regius professor of anatomy in the University of Glasgow, on November 10, aged forty-eight.

Mr. E. V. Suckling, an authority on water purification and author, with J. F. Beale and J. C. Thresh, of "Examination of Water and Water-supplies", on November 16, aged fifty-one.