

above, and will see many smart movements imposed upon the seal by the clever internal 'architecture' of the tank. This fine basin recalled the modest accommodation which the seal living in the Heligoland aquarium many years ago had to be content with.

As with the Station of former times, the very appropriate speech from Goethe is in evidence. It now faces us set into the wall in large bronze capitals as we enter through the main public door: "Alles ist aus dem Wasser Entsprungen, alles wird durch

das Wasser erhalten, Ozean gönn uns Dein ewiges Walten".

It was due to the kind generosity of the *Bund* Ministry that I was able to attend the impressive re-opening. For those who would know very much more about the new Biologische Anstalt Helgoland, a full account written by its director exists¹ and a shorter one by one of his assistants².

¹ Bückmann, A., *Helgol. Wiss. Meeresunters.*, 7, Heft 1, 1-50 (Hamburg, 1958).

² Hempel, G., *Die Umschau*, 12, 353-4 (Frankfurt am Main, 1959).

OBITUARIES

Prof. E. Percival

A GREAT blow has been dealt to marine and freshwater biology in New Zealand by the death on July 15, in Christchurch, of Prof. Edward Percival. Prof. Percival, who was born in 1893, was elected to the chair of biology at Canterbury University College, as it was then called, in 1928 after serving as lecturer in the Department of Zoology at the University of Leeds, where he was assistant to the late Prof. Walter Garstang. During 1928 he worked as a temporary naturalist in the Plymouth Laboratory on the ecology of the Rivers Tamar and Lynher, and he will be well remembered by those who knew him then. The son of a Cheshire farmer, Percival spent his boyhood in Lancashire, where he took the national diploma in agriculture at the Harris Institute, Preston, and he found much to interest him when he came to New Zealand. His early work on the ecology of rivers in Yorkshire led him to play a prominent part in trout management in acclimatization society work in New Zealand, and his experience in marine biology in the United Kingdom was put to good use in guiding his research students and in advising the policies of various government departments.

His published work, amounting only to about a score of papers, is not a sufficient criterion by which to judge the man. He had declined various academic honours since he maintained that such things were of no use to him. He did, however, consent to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

First and foremost he was a teacher. From the elementary- to the postgraduate-level he never failed to bring out the best in the human material set before him. His particular philosophies on the teaching and appreciation of biology will be long remembered by all those who came in contact with him, even if only as incidental associates.

For his advanced students he held a twice-yearly field expedition to Menzies Bay, one of the isolated little coves on Banks Peninsula, and he took his students into the field on almost every other weekend during term, bringing a certain spartan approach to the pleasures of animal observation which helped one more fully realize what is meant by ecology. His aim was to produce, at the postgraduate-level, a student well balanced in outlook, able to think, not to be a storehouse of facts but to know where to turn to find what is already known, and potentially able to go on in almost any field of biological endeavour. How successful he has been in this can be seen by the wide distribution of his honours students in various positions throughout the world.

The informal, and often quite unzoological, discussions which he held in the field and in the well-remembered atmosphere of his rooms, together with his novel methods of allowing notes to be taken into the examination room, all helped to bring out what powers of expression and thought were available in his students. Indeed, he often remarked that he wished he could conduct his examinations in the University library, for he would know even more easily the worth of his candidates.

Physically he was outstanding for a man near retirement, and in the field his stride and energy in every activity proved more than a match for even the most athletic of his followers.

At the first encounter he presented a rather forbidding aspect and was inclined to be of uncertain temperament, but this, particularly in his later years, was a variation on the theme of not suffering fools gladly. If one genuinely wanted help, advice or encouragement and if one had exercised all one's resources before approaching him, Percival became the proverbial tower of strength and it was difficult not to find oneself being cast in his mould.

Apart from his long-term studies on lakes in the Canterbury foothills and his interests in marine matters, his scientific work will long be remembered for his fine studies on the embryology of the Brachiopoda. Percival was fortunate in having a locality close by where these animals could easily be taken between tides on the rocky shore and he was able to use his advantage to the full in producing his studies on their development and growth. He was never afraid to admit that he was wrong or that he did not know, an attitude of mind which had its effects particularly on his elementary students contemplating a career in teaching.

Percival's influence extended far beyond the cloisters of the University of Canterbury, and it would be hard to exaggerate just how widely his teaching and stimulation have been, and will continue to be, felt.

ELLIOT W. DAWSON

Dr. M. R. Schafroth

DR. MAX ROBERT SCHAFROTH and his wife, Käthi Schafroth (*née* Gemperle), died on May 29; they were killed in an aeroplane crash in Northern Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Schafroth was born in Burgdorf, Switzerland, on February 8, 1923. He passed his matriculation at the Gymnasium in Bern in 1949. He then entered the University of Bern in order to study mathematics and physics, later changing to the