

expedition to south-western Arabia entitled "In the High Yemen" (1942). During the Second World War he was the chief author of the naval intelligence "Handbook on Western Arabia and the Red Sea".

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1941, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1954, and was an original member of the Entomological Research Committee formed by the Colonial Office in 1909, which later developed into the Imperial Bureau (now Commonwealth Institute) of Entomology.

Scott will be remembered by all who knew him as a kindly, courteous and deeply learned man. He was possessed of a deep religious conviction, a fact which influenced his life to a high degree.

In 1913 he married Beatrice Emily Streatfield (who died in 1947) and leaves a son and daughter.

E. B. BRITTON

### Dr. A. B. Edwards

AUSTIN BURTON EDWARDS was born in Melbourne in 1909 and educated at the Caulfield Grammar School. He graduated from the University of Melbourne with first-class honours in geology and was awarded the Howitt natural history scholarship in geology and the Bartlett scholarship. After the publication of the first two of the 128 contributions to geological science with which he is identified either as sole or joint author, he was awarded an 1851 Exhibition which enabled him to continue his studies in London at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1934.

He won his university half-blue in football at Melbourne and his colours in athletics at the Imperial College; his athletics background was of great value to him in his geological work, much of which was performed in mountainous terrain.

On returning to Australia he joined the Mineragraphic Section of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, which maintains close relationships with the Geological Department of the University of Melbourne. Thus commenced a long association with the officer-in-charge of the Section, Dr. F. L. Stillwell, whom he succeeded in 1953. His early work with the Section produced a series of studies of Australian ores and ore deposits which was extended to the examination of mill products and mill tailings and eventually to smelter products such as mattes, speisses and slags. At the same time he sustained a keen interest in petrological problems and completed various papers begun in London, of which the more important were his studies on the tertiary volcanic rocks of Central Victoria and the differentiation of dolerites of Tasmania. In 1937 he shared with Prof. R. D. Wright the David Syme research prize of the University of Melbourne. He gained his doctorate of science in 1942.

His first independent mineragraphical task was the study of the occurrence of manganese in iron ore of Iron Knob in South Australia, later extended to the iron ores of the Middle Back Ranges. This was the first of a series of studies which culminated in the recognition and discovery of the oolitic iron ores in the Northern Territory and Constance Ranges in Queensland.

As the scope of work of the Mineragraphic Section widened, Dr. Edwards made contributions to sedi-

mentary petrology, geochemistry, meteorites and geomorphology. The sedimentary petrology commenced with a study, jointly with G. Baker, of the Jurassic arkoses in Victoria, later extended to the Mesozoic and Tertiary sediments of the Aure Trough, Purari Valley and the Wahgi Valley in Papua. His interest in geochemistry arose in the past few years from studies of the selenium content in sulphide deposits and the distribution of cadmium, manganese and iron in Broken Hill sphalerites. His descriptions of meteorites were a natural extension of his mineragraphical work, while his interest in geomorphology absorbed him during his vacations.

Lecturing in the University of Melbourne on mining geology between 1941 and 1953, his interest was roused in Victorian coal. Subsequent papers on Wonthaggi and Victorian brown coals elevated him to a position of authority on brown coal and resulted in a request from the State Electricity Commission to act as geological consultant. He allocated his consultant's fees to the purchase of equipment for the Mineragraphic Section.

In 1946 a postgraduate course was provided by the Geological Department of the University of Melbourne for eight Indian graduates. Dr. Edwards contributed to this course a series of lectures on mineragraphy and ore textures. These lectures provided the basis for his book, "Textures of Ore Minerals", which the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy published in 1947 and which met with such world-wide success that the demand quickly exhausted the first edition. A new and enlarged edition (1954) was exhausted in 1960, and further reprinting was in progress at the time of his death.

In preparation for the Fifth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress in Australia in 1953, Dr. Edwards initiated a symposium on the geology of Australian ore deposits. It was organized by a committee appointed by the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy with Dr. Edwards as chairman. The result was a volume comprising 135 articles contributed by the leading geologists in the Commonwealth, which were edited by Dr. Edwards, with the gaps filled in with his own editorial contribution. He served as assistant editor of the *Proceedings* of the Institute until his departure overseas.

Ore minerals and their textures was the subject chosen by Dr. Edwards for the Clarke Memorial Lecture to the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1952. The last honour received by him was the award of the Society's Clarke Memorial Medal in 1960.

He was a member of the Council of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Corresponding Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society, Foreign Member of the Mineralogical Society of India, and observer for 1958-61 for the Commission on Geochemistry of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

In preparation for his overseas tour he acquired a knowledge of spoken Italian. He left with his wife on August 25 but died in Rome.

With his death Australian geological science suffers the loss of a brilliant and energetic scholar whose clear thinking and rapid grasp of a problem was a constant help and guide to all associated with him. This loss, at the height of his career, is most keenly felt, both throughout Australia and overseas.

F. L. STILLWELL