

OBITUARY

PROF. E. W. MACBRIDE

THE death of Prof. E. W. MacBride, F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Zoology in the University of London on November 17, 1940, at the age of 73, has removed an outstanding personality from the zoological world.

Born in Belfast, Ireland, on 12th December 1866, he had his early education at Queen's College, Belfast, and in 1889 he graduated from London obtaining the University Scholarship in Zoology. He went to Cambridge where he distinguished himself and won the Exhibition and the Foundation Scholarship of his College, St. John's. His debating powers secured him the Presidentship of the Cambridge Union in 1891. He worked at the Zoological Station at Naples under Anton Dohrn, the founder and director of the Station during 1891-92. In 1892, he was appointed University Demonstrator in Animal Morphology at Cambridge and became Fellow of St. John's College next year. By this time, his researches had won for him international recognition and reputation and he was the first recipient of the Washington Medal for Biological Research. He left for Montreal in Canada in 1897, having been selected as the first Strathcova Professor of Zoology in the McGill University. In 1901, his first book written jointly with his Cambridge colleague Shepley appeared. This text-book of zoology was a success and had run through several editions since. In 1905, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and next year (1906), the *Cambridge Natural History*, Vol. I, appeared, with the section on Echinodermata written by Prof. MacBride. Though he married in Canada a daughter of late Francis Henry Chrysler, K.C., of Ottawa, his zeal for science frequently took him to England, to renew his investigation and researches, until in 1909 he finally resigned his post and returned to England. He is next seen engaged in the heavy task of writing a comprehensive text-book of

Invertebrate Embryology which, published in 1914, is still the standard text-book in the English language. This biggest achievement of his, he generously dedicated to his teacher Adam Sedgwick, whom he succeeded, on his pre-mature death, in the Imperial College of Science in 1913. It was a matter of great satisfaction and pride to him that he should have succeeded Adam Sedgwick in a place which was held, prior to Sedgwick by Sedgwick's teacher, the famous Thomas Huxley. Prof. MacBride used to delight on this genealogy. For over 21 years, till his retirement in 1934, he held the post in the Imperial College and turned out from his Huxley Laboratory a stream of research which honours the pages of scientific journals in England. Even after his retirement, we find him attending the Imperial College as Emeritus Professor of the University and guiding research at his old laboratory.

We in India, have reason particularly to mourn the death of Prof. MacBride. Apart from books which are in daily use in Colleges he has been the *guru* of several brilliant students who now occupy important zoological positions in India. Almost every province in India which has zoological activities can claim a pupil of Prof. MacBride in its service. Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Aligarh, Travancore, Hyderabad can each claim one or more zoologists who had been Prof. MacBride's pupils. There is no other professor in England who can claim to have turned out as many Indian zoologists as Prof. MacBride has. It may well be claimed for him therefore that the recent zoological progress in this country owes a deep debt of gratitude to him.

Prof. MacBride was a most charming and inspiring personality that infused the young minds with a real thirst and spirit for research.

S. G. M. R.