

Gemmill had wide zoological interests—*anatomical, faunistic, ecological, and embryological*; but the last was strongest. His researches on the development of *echinoderms* will form his chief zoological monument; they are masterly in their precision of observation and shrewdness of judgment. But one remembers also his embryological studies among *cœlenterates*, and his big memoir on the *teratology* of fishes (1912). When he went to Dundee, he told us that he had passed a self-denying ordinance, and was going to devote himself for some years to a study of practically important farm-pests; and so he became immersed with his usual enthusiasm in the unravelling of the life-history of a species of *Biblio*, and of some other parasites, such as an elusive tapeworm that is common in lambs. He had a great interest in mechanical devices, of which his little marine aquarium was the simplest—a study aquarium in which he kept sea-animals flourishing in the heart of Glasgow, and even discovered new Clyde species from there. We hope his technical ingenuities will not be lost sight of.

Prof. Gemmill was very happy in his Dundee years. He enjoyed the concentration of his academic work and the opportunities it gave him for diffusing and fostering an interest in biology through the Natural History Society, and the like. His election to the Royal Society came as another encouragement. He found great delight in furnishing an interesting old house, and he was helped at every turn by his niece, to whom he was devoted. He was never the same after her sudden death in 1924.

We should like to be allowed to pay a more personal tribute of affection to one whom we have been proud to call friend for many a year. Gemmill was a singularly lovable man, quiet and gentle, but very strong in grip and firm in judgment. Even for Scotland he was unusually thoughtful, always pondering; even for a scientific investigator, he was unusually cautious. Thus his clear-cut judgments, when the evidence seemed to him sufficient to warrant a conclusion, were always worth waiting for. Of judgments on persons we never heard him give one, though he had his share of fighting, and when an outspoken personal condemnation was uttered in his hearing, his grave face would become graver still and sad. Yet he was no 'Heaven and Hell Amalgamation Man'; on the contrary, a very clear-headed discriminator of persons.

What a fine companion Gemmill was, radiating cheerfulness, enlivening on a long walk, heartening when the dredge was coming up, magnanimous on the golf course, but always in his own peculiarly restful quiet way. Never of the strongest, he was very wiry, with great power of physical endurance, and on his holiday in Norway last summer, with a great sorrow, not even dulled, as his shadow, he probably walked harder than was wise. Whether over-tired or specifically infected, he came home under a cloud of nervous depression which became darker and darker until at the last it overwhelmed him.

Gemmill was an upright man, reverent, good through and through; he was frugal and abstemious, fond of his kindred and friends, full of kindness to all men of good-will. He liked simple pleasures—always keen on a walk; he loved children; he delighted in his garden, his study-aquarium in Glasgow days, the flowers of

the field, his pets—the dog most of all. He enjoyed meeting people when the day's work was done and he had a talent—perhaps a genius—for friendship. That he was pre-eminently interested in zoology is obvious, and he once told us that he was glad that amid ups and downs he had been able to hold by an early resolve that he would allow nothing—even teaching—to come between him and investigation. Often we pressed him to write a book, for he had very individual ideas, about organic evolution, for example, combining Lamarck's outlook with Goethe's, but he always resisted what he smilingly called a "temptation." We must think of Gemmill as one who made a great success of life, for he had the joy of many red letter days of discovery along the line which he had proposed to himself as his. Amid all his profound seriousness he greatly enjoyed Nature and many of the pleasures of human life; and was he not greatly beloved?

Why was it that we all, so different from one another, liked the man so much? Perhaps part of the reason was our quick discovery that he was thinking more about us than about himself. It was not only that he was overflowing with kindness, but he had also the rare gift of affectionate interest—half a naturalist's, half an artist's—in individuality. He took pleasure in our eccentricities; he delighted in our ruggednesses; he enjoyed our upsetting enthusiasms. Alas, alas, that there was no staying the Fury with the abhorred shears; but we doubt not that our friend will live on for his full span in the minds of many made better by his presence.

J. A. T.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. A. C. Eycleshymer, Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, distinguished for his work on vertebrate embryology, on December 30, aged fifty-eight years.

John K. Hillers, an early member of the United States Geological Survey who, while in charge of the Photographic Laboratory of the Survey, was responsible for many photographs of noteworthy geological features of the western United States which have passed into text-books and reports, on November 14, aged eighty-two years.

Dr. Martin Murphy, president in 1902-3 of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, distinguished for his work on railway bridge-building, on January 10, aged ninety-four years.

The Hon. Sir H. A. A. Nicholls, lately Principal Medical Officer of Dominica, West Indies, known for his work on tropical diseases and on tropical agriculture, aged seventy-four years.

Prof. H. Kamerlingh Onnes, For. Mem. R.S., for many years Director of the Physical Laboratory at the University of Leyden, and Nobel prizeman for physics in 1913, on February 21, aged seventy-two years.

M. Adrien Robert, of the Sorbonne, secretary of the Zoological Society of France, on November 16, aged fifty-eight years.

Dr. M. B. R. Swann, fellow of Caius College and demonstrator in pathology in the University of Cambridge, from blood poisoning contracted during a *post-mortem* examination, on February 16, aged thirty-two years.

Mr. J. Whytock, first president of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and a recipient of the Victoria Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society, on February 1.