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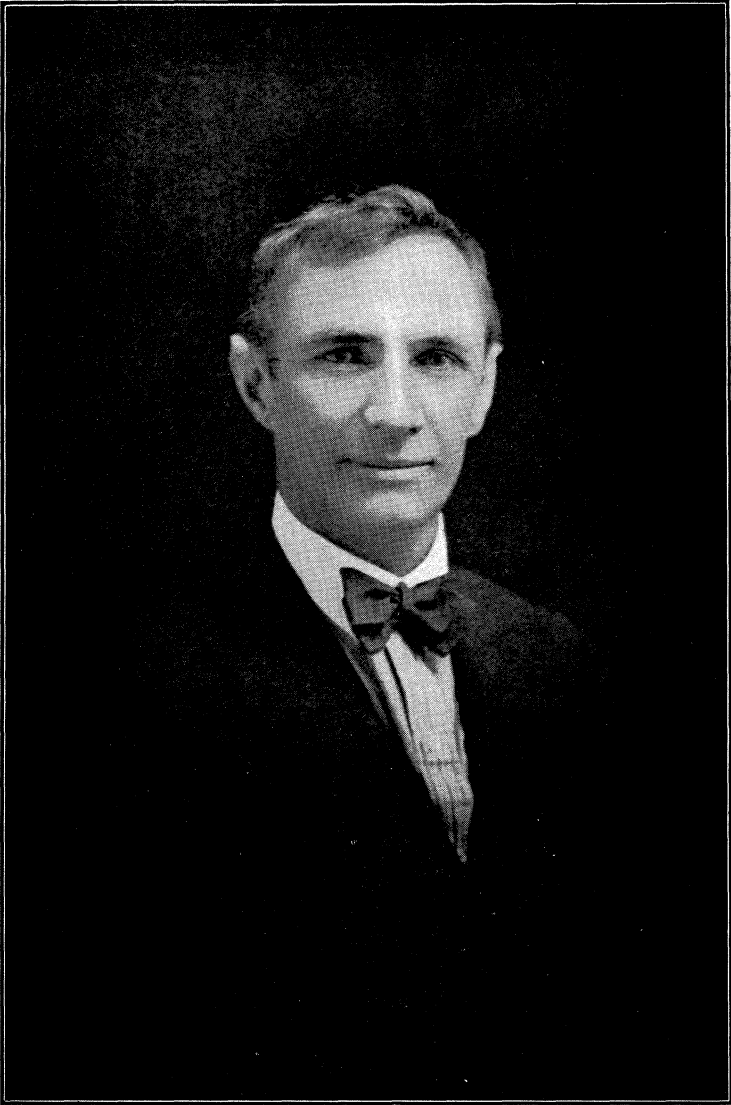
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ALLAN RIVERSTONE McCULLOCH.
FROM A RECENT PORTRAIT.

ALLAN RIVERSTONE McCULLOCH, 1885-1925.

By the death of A. R. McCulloch, which took place at Honolulu on September 1st, 1925, systematic ichthyology has lost one of its foremost exponents, and this Museum one of the finest officers it has ever had.

He was born at Sydney on June 20th, 1885, the son of Herbert Riverstone McCulloch and Ella Maud Backhouse, and at the early age of thirteen he became associated with the Australian Museum as an unpaid assistant to Mr. Edgar R. Waite, who was then in charge of the vertebrate section and is now Director of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide. Even in these early days young McCulloch was distinguished by his enthusiasm, his ability, and his determination to succeed in the sphere which he had entered. Assisted and encouraged by Mr. Waite, he made rapid progress both in the study of zoology and in the art of illustration, and when, in 1906, Waite became Curator of the Canterbury Museum New Zealand, McCulloch succeeded him as Assistant in Charge of Vertebrates, though he was not quite twenty-one. By that time he had definitely resolved to devote himself to the study of fishes and that became his life work, though he was skilled in all branches of zoology, and was recognised as an authority on decapod crustacea. He had a rare gift for taxonomic work, and, largely as a result of his numerous published papers, the taxonomy of Australian fishes has been placed on a sound basis.

His versatility was striking and in any work or hobby which he took up he was never satisfied with the second best. He was an expert photographer and cinematographer, an accomplished artist and musician, and a delightful lecturer. The various scenic and habitat groups recently installed in the Australian Museum were largely planned by him and owe much to his artistic taste and ability. He was a splendid organiser, and had taken a prominent part in training the younger members of the zoological staff of the Museum, most of whom had at one time or another served under him. His advice and assistance were often sought by other Australasian and foreign workers and he never failed to respond in a generous manner.

Although not of robust physique he was active and full of courage, and more than once he had risked his life in the pursuit of knowledge. He had made several trips to the Great Barrier Reef, usually in company with the late Mr. C. Hedley, and to various Pacific islands, had donned a diver's suit and descended into the dangerous waters of Torres Strait, and, in 1922, had, along with Captain Frank Hurley, undertaken an adventurous journey in Papua, from which he returned with many valuable specimens and a wealth of observations on the natives and the animal life of the island.

He was a great worker, and by his unremitting toil, often far into the night, he had seriously undermined his constitution. For two years his health had been in a very unsatisfactory state, and at the time of his lamented death he was on long leave of twelve months granted him by the Board of Trustees in the hope that his bodily and mental vigour

would be restored. After a short visit to Lord Howe Island he left Australia for Honolulu to attend the second Pan-Pacific Food Conservation Conference, in response to frequent invitations from Mr. A. H. Ford, Director of the Pan-Pacific Union, and all his friends hoped that the change would be beneficial to his health.

It is not surprising to find that with his unusual gifts he made a marked impression on the members of the Pan-Pacific Union during the few weeks he spent at Honolulu. The *Bulletin* of the Union for October, 1925, printed a short obituary and eulogy in which the following passages occur.

"In Allan Riverstone McCulloch, brilliant member of the staff of the Australian Museum, Sydney, . . . the Pan-Pacific Union loses a staunch friend and faithful worker.

"The Government of New South Wales had sent Mr. McCulloch to Honolulu to confer with Dr. David Starr Jordan, Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, and other fishery specialists from Pacific lands. Mr. McCulloch had been kept in constant cable communication with Dr. Jordan, who has stated that he was unquestionably the greatest authority on fish in the southern hemisphere, and one of the eight men in the world who really knew about fish. He had just finished a splendid piece of work in the form of an argument and agenda for the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Conference, in which among other things he advocated the establishment of a great biological university . . .

"During his stay of six weeks in Hawaii, Mr. McCulloch made many friends. He possessed an unusually pleasing personality, and because of his background as an explorer and scientist, scholar and gentleman, musician, artist, and lovable friend, was much sought after . . ."

It is obvious that although McCulloch was in a poor state of health during his stay in Hawaii, he devoted himself with his accustomed ardour to the work he found to his hand, thus still further reducing his already weakened frame until he broke under the strain. He paid the penalty of enthusiasm in his chosen field of research, in which he had become an acknowledged master, and we must regard him as a martyr in the cause of science.

When he died at the early age of forty he left a record of accomplishment rarely equalled in the full span of a human life. His work was marked by thoroughness and accuracy; he has been described by Dr. Jordan, one of the highest authorities, as "one of the most accurate workers in systematic ichthyology now living." Most of his contributions appeared in the *Records of the Australian Museum*, or in the official publications of other State museums, and were illustrated mainly by his own exquisite drawings in which he took great pride. He reported on the fishes collected by the Federal Trawler "Endeavour," one section, which he had completed just before he left Australia for Honolulu, being recently published. His most important work, which embodied the results of many years' toil and research, was his "Check-list of the Fishes and Fish-like Animals of New South Wales," published by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales (*Australian Zoologist* Vol. I, 1912, pp. 217-227; Vol II, 1921, pp. 24-68; 1922, pp. 83-130). This fine piece of work was issued separately as *Australian Zoological Handbook*,



“ IN MEMORY OF
ALLAN RIVERSTONE McCULLOCH.
NATURALIST.

1885-1925.

ERECTED BY FRIENDS AND FELLOW WORKERS.
HIS ASHES REST HEREIN.”

[Photo—E. F. Pollock

No. 1, in 1922 and forms an enduring monument to the industry and ability of the author.

His remains were cremated, and in accordance with the wishes of his relations and friends, his ashes were brought back to Sydney and subsequently conveyed to Lord Howe Island. On this beautiful little island, which McCulloch loved more than any other spot on earth, where he delighted to spend his vacations, and to the natural history of which he had devoted much study, a granite monument has been erected by his friends and scientific colleagues to perpetuate the memory of one of the most brilliant naturalists that Australia has produced.

C. ANDERSON.

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*Compiled from a MS. list of papers left by the late Allan R. McCulloch, revised and enlarged by Gilbert P. Whitley. The titles are arranged in chronological sequence; joint authorships are placed alphabetically under the second author's name, then in order of publication.

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(POSTHUMOUS PAPERS.)

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(PAPERS BY JOINT AUTHORS.)

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