

CHARLES ANDERSON:

5th December, 1876—25th October, 1944.

Charles Anderson, youngest son of John Anderson of Moa, Stenness, Orkney Islands, was one of a family of nine. Educational opportunities he forged for himself. From his first school at Stenness he won two bursaries to the Kirkwall Burgh School, from which twice weekly he walked home for supplies, nine miles each way—thirty-six miles weekly. At the Burgh School he acquitted himself so well that he won his way to Edinburgh University, where, by means of scholarship and prize, he pursued his course of study. His career was a brilliant one. He was medallist in every science subject—Chemistry, Crystallography, Geology, Mineralogy, Physics, and Zoology—besides being awarded the Hope Prize Scholarship as the most distinguished student in the Chemical Laboratory. Apart from these awards he obtained distinction in English Literature Latin, and Senior Mathematics, and graduated Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science. To achieve this was more than hard work alone; it was hard work performed under hard conditions, conditions which demanded physical strength and tenacity of purpose.

After his graduation he was appointed to take charge of the Ben Nevis Observatory, whence he came to the Australian Museum as Mineralogist. This post he took over on 22nd July, 1901. Almost immediately he applied himself to the task of reorganizing his department, its collections and exhibits—a task which well repaid his labours as those who knew the department previously could testify. Besides these curatorial duties he embarked upon research work in Mineralogy, and for this he was awarded his Doctorate of Science in 1908 by the University of Edinburgh.

In 1911 he visited Europe. The object was a twofold one. He was anxious to see his aging parents, to whom he was deeply attached, and also to study the development of museums and their trends. Following a short interregnum after the death of the late Robert Etheridge, junior, Anderson was appointed Director on 14th February, 1921. It was at this stage that he abandoned mineralogy and crystallography and gave what time his new duties would spare to vertebrate palaeontology, in which field he attained world eminence. He was thus widely known in the scientific world both as a mineralogist and as a vertebrate palaeontologist. During his directorship the Museum developed in many ways. *The Australian Museum Magazine* was founded; more precisely, it was established between the death of his predecessor and his appointment, though the first issue appeared subsequently. To this he contributed many articles upon a wide range of subjects. Popular lectures, begun in 1905, were expanded, though staffing did not permit the full extension hoped for. Gallery displays were improved considerably, and many fine groups were installed. So good were these that they earned the approbation of many overseas authorities. He retired from the office of Director of the Museum on 31st October, 1940.

He was President of the Royal Society of New South Wales (1924), Linnean Society of New South Wales (1932), Anthropological Society of New South Wales (1930, 1931), and the Geographical Society of New South Wales (1941, 1942). He was a foundation member of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of Australia and New Zealand, and a member of the Australian National Research Council. He was also a Corresponding Member of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London. He was one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Royal Society of New South Wales from 1935 to 1943.

He had an extensive knowledge of the sciences, apart from those he was actively engaged in, and was a good classical scholar and linguist. An ardent Orcadian, he was