

THOMAS HODGE-SMITH.

1894-1945.

Thomas Hodge-Smith was born at Swindon, Wiltshire, England, on 27th October, 1894, and was brought to Australia at the early age of two with his family. His father, the Reverend Michael Smith, a Presbyterian minister, was stationed at various places in New South Wales and eventually came to Double Bay, Sydney, where a good part of his boyhood was spent.

He was educated at Scots' College, the Sydney Technical High School, the Sydney Technical College and the University of Sydney. Before leaving school his thoughts turned to engineering, and once he actually left school to work for a time with a firm of engineers. He returned to complete his school studies and passed a competitive examination for entrance to a profession in the State Public Service. After some time he was offered a cadetship in the Geological Survey of New South Wales, and in 1913 became assistant to the late G. W. Card, Curator of the Mining Museum, for whom he always entertained an affectionate regard. It is interesting to note the influence of his sister, Mrs. C. D. Cotton, in his selection of mineralogy as his life's work. She was a research crystallographer before her marriage and they were very close companions not only then but in later life also.

The 1914-1918 war intervened largely in his life. For a time prior to 1914 he had been in the Naval Reserve; consequently the very night war was declared found him on his way to New Guinea with the Royal Australian Navy. Here, after having seen active service, he nearly died of blackwater fever and was invalided back to Sydney. After recovery and a period of further naval training, when he rose to the rank of sub-lieutenant, he finally forsook the Navy, although at one stage he apparently did contemplate making a career of it. He then joined the A.I.F., and in 1916 went overseas to France on active service as a sapper. His career as a soldier was cut short in 1918 by a shell which in bursting broke his leg and killed everyone else in his immediate vicinity.

He resumed service with the Mining Museum, but in 1919 he left there to join the staff of the Australian Museum and in 1921 became Mineralogist, succeeding the late Dr. C. Anderson, who had been elevated to the position of Director.

In the scientific world Hodge-Smith will be remembered as a morphological crystallographer and as an authority on Australian meteorites. He was specially interested in tektites, firmly believing in their celestial origin and in the theory of continuing fall. In his early years as mineralogist at the Museum, he carried out a good deal of field work, especially in connection with the occurrence of zeolite minerals in New South Wales and notably on the mica fields of Central Australia. He was a competent analyst also, but regarded chemical work as somewhat tedious. His chief love was crystal measurement and drawing. This, I think, reflects his early interest in navigation and draughtsmanship. One of his achievements was to describe a new mineral from Broken Hill, which he very appropriately named sturtite after the great Australian explorer.

In addition to research, his period of office at the Museum was marked by a tremendous improvement in the display and storage of the Museum mineral collection. From 1925 until the time of his death he was Teacher of Mineralogy at the Sydney Technical College.

He was also very interested in gemmology and was unremitting in his efforts to instil into all concerned with the jewellery trade a strong regard for the scientific