

IN MEMORIAM.

EDWARD ADRIAN WILSON.

I.

EDWARD ADRIAN WILSON, M.B., F.Z.S., was born in 1872 and was the son of Dr. E. T. Wilson, a leading physician of Cheltenham. He was educated as a day-boy at Cheltenham College, where his inherited love of nature and scientific pursuits rapidly showed themselves; he was popular with his school-fellows, but probably the happiest moments of his school-life were the holidays spent in sketching and hunting for flowers and birds and beasts on the Cotteswold Hills. On leaving Cheltenham he went up to Caius College, Cambridge, to study Science and Medicine, and in 1894 he took a first class in the Natural Science Tripos, Part I. He rowed in his college boat and made many good friends alike among dons and undergraduates at Cambridge.

After this he studied at St. George's Hospital, but the strain of his medical work, added to self-imposed labour among the poor at the Caius College Mission in Battersea, ended in an acute attack of tuberculosis, and in 1898 he was advised to spend a year in Switzerland and a couple of summers in Norway, where his taste for nature studies and painting, especially of birds, again found delightful exercise. In 1900 he took his M.B. at Cambridge. It was at Battersea that he first met his future wife, Miss Oriana Souper, whose devoted affection and practical sympathy in his work contributed to an ideal union.

Dr. Wilson was just rejoicing in his complete recovery of health and renewed power of work when a mutual friend, who found him painting animals at the Zoo (he was already an F.Z.S.), brought about the introduction to Captain Scott, which proved the beginning of a loyal comradeship, only to close on earth with their heroic death together twelve years later.

He was married in July 1901, and the same month he sailed with Captain Scott for the Antarctic as second medical officer, vertebrate zoologist, and artist to the *Discovery* expedition. Captain Scott was a good judge of men, and in Edward Wilson he secured a man just suited to the work in hand. Dr. Wilson was highly qualified in medicine and surgery; he was a good zoologist, and a first-rate all-round naturalist; he was a very accurate draughtsman and a delightful water-colour painter; but, above all, his charming personality and cheerful disposition, his unruffled temper, his untiring readiness to turn his hand to anything, however unpleasant, that was to be done, made him an invaluable colleague for an expedition where health and good spirits during the dark winter months were as important as hard work during the summer.



E. T. Wilson, photo., 1910.

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EDWARD ADRIAN WILSON.

Born, Cheltenham, 1872.

Died on return journey from South Pole, 1912.

It is needless to set out here the story of that first Antarctic adventure which is told so admirably in Captain Scott's 'Voyage of the *Discovery*' (1905) and illustrated by some of Dr. Wilson's paintings; but it will be remembered how in their southern sledge journey Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson, and Sir E. Shackleton reached 82°17' S. (some 420 miles from the South Pole), and how, owing to their companion's breakdown, Captain Scott and Dr. Wilson had great difficulty in getting back to the headquarters. Some idea of the zoological work done mainly by Dr. Wilson on that expedition may be gained from the able appendix which he contributed to Captain Scott's book.

On his return to England in 1904, Dr. Wilson took a studio at Bushey and spent much time in finishing his paintings and arranging at the Natural History Museum the specimens brought home by the expedition, as well as in editing a volume of photographs and drawings for the Royal Society; and those who visited the Exhibition of *Discovery* Pictures and Photographs will not have forgotten his clear and delicate water-colours, some of them showing singularly beautiful effects of Antarctic sunset and aurora australis. Other work of his, in lighter vein, is to be found in the *South Polar Times*, the journal which was published by the members of the expedition for their own entertainment during the Antarctic winter, and which has since been well reproduced. He also delivered a series of lectures, at public schools and elsewhere, in which his power of lucid description, his occasional touches of humour, and his admirable pictures—especially of the Emperor penguins—won much appreciation.

In 1906 he was appointed field observer to the Grouse Commission, a task exactly suited to his well-trained powers of observation and scientific investigation, and the success of the Commission in diagnosing the cause of the grouse disease (in which Wilson had a large share) is to be read of in the Report issued in 1911 on 'The Grouse in Health and Disease,' largely illustrated by Dr. Wilson's careful diagrams and pictures, which he did not live to see in their completed state. Another work that occupied his busy pencil and brush at this time was the illustration of Barrett Hamilton's work (now in course of publication) on the British Mammalia. Thus the six years that elapsed between the two Antarctic expeditions were full of the happiest domestic life, often with his parents and family at Cheltenham, often travelling with his wife—who, alike in the studio, camping out on a grouse moor, or observing the grey seal on the west coast of Ireland, was his inseparable companion and most efficient helper.

In 1909 came an urgent invitation from Captain Scott to join him in a second expedition to the Antarctic, as head of his scientific staff. The spell of the Antarctic was upon him: Dr. Wilson accepted at once, and from that moment he became Captain Scott's chief and trusted adviser. Henceforth his time was fully occupied with

preparations for the expedition in which he was able to give much help. Such details as sledges, clothing, foods, snow goggles, and the like had all to be carefully considered and tested in the light of previous experience. Furthermore, as it was hoped that the *Terra Nova* might fall in with some whales in the Southern Seas, Dr. Wilson spent three weeks of the precious time that remained before the start roughing it aboard a 'whaler' off the Shetlands, in order to learn the use of the whaling tackle which had been presented to the expedition.

The *Terra Nova* sailed from Cardiff on June 15, 1910, and the remainder of the story is already well known in outline, and will doubtless be of great interest when the careful records of the expedition are published. And, among these, Dr. Wilson's journey with two comrades (one of whom, alas!—Lieutenant Bowers—perished with him) to the Emperor penguin rookery at Cape Crozier in the Antarctic mid-winter of 1911, will furnish a tale of endurance in the cause of pure knowledge hardly to be surpassed in the history of science.

The final Southern advance party, consisting of Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson, Lieutenant Bowers, Captain Oates, and the seaman Evans, started on Nov. 2, 1911, and reached the South Pole on January 18, 1912. It is unnecessary here to tell again the tragic story of the return journey—their heroic struggle against difficulties of every kind: the sick companions, the shortage of fuel, the persistent bad weather, the unusually low temperatures—it is told best and simplest in Captain Scott's last message, which breathes the spirit of his companion of two expeditions no less than of himself.

Dr. Wilson died with Captain Scott and Lieutenant Bowers about March 29, 1912, of cold and privation, 155 miles from the headquarters at Cape Evans, and their surviving comrades buried them there six months later in the Antarctic ice of the Great Barrier, whose secrets they have done so much to reveal. Edward Wilson was a man of singularly lovable character; modest and retiring by nature, he was utterly unselfish and unassuming; yet everyone who was fortunate enough to know him liked him, and was impressed by his goodness and simplicity no less than by his mental capacity and artistic skill. The basis of his character was a firm Christian faith. He was only in his fortieth year when he died, and it seemed that a long career of usefulness and distinction lay before him. This was not to be: but he has left behind him a name that Englishmen will not readily forget.

G. R.

II.

It is perhaps undesirable to amplify in any way the above short but admirable epitome of a life singularly full of varied activities, and it is unnecessary to draw attention to the many exceptional tributes which have been paid, during the past three months, to the talents, the energy, and the character of the late explorer.

The memoir, written by his brother-in-law, though condensed, leaves but little untouched. A note, however, on his connection with the Alpine Club will not be inappropriate in these pages.

Dr. E. A. Wilson was the only member of our Club who has ever been elected on a purely Arctic, or Antarctic, qualification; and he was, further, the only prominent Polar explorer who has valued Alpine experience and attainment sufficiently to seek our membership. He took a lively interest in mountaineering, and would often discuss Alpine icecraft with his climbing friends; and he had a fuller appreciation of the bearing of such knowledge upon the problems of Antarctic exploration than had any of his compeers. Possibly the fact that he had been, throughout his life, associated in one way or another with climbers may have given his mind a bent in this direction. He had many Alpine friends, among whom Walter Larden, who was his first form-master at Cheltenham and kept in touch with him to the end, may be named. Later on he came into close association with the late Mr. Dent at St. George's Hospital: while the writer had, through ties of relationship, known him since his early school-days. But he had many friends amongst the climbers, for he was a man who made friends everywhere, and no enemies. A born artist, a born naturalist, possessed of indefatigable energy and cheerfulness, he was one who, despite a serious attack of pulmonary tubercle in early manhood, lived to seek and endure hardships and privations, in the course of his pursuit of knowledge, such as fall only to the lot of the bravest and most adventurous. In him were combined all those qualities which members of this Club especially admire and venerate, and his name will ever live in our annals as one of the few we have most reason to be proud of.

The portrait here reproduced has been enlarged from a photograph taken by his father, immediately prior to his final departure from home.

C. W.

DEATH OF HERR EDUARD WAGNER.

THE death, from cancer of the lung, of this very distinguished mountaineer is announced.

He was born at Prague in 1870 and acquired his early mountain experience in the Zillerthal at the hands of such good masters as Hans Stabeler, Hans Hörhager I, and others, making the first ascent of the Thurnerkamp by the E. ridge, and a new ascent of the Hochferner direct from the Schlegeisgrund among many other expeditions. In 1894 he felt himself qualified to dispense with the services of guides, and in the following years was a member of various parties which carried through successfully many of the great expeditions of the Alps.

Among these expeditions were the first ascents of the N.E. face of the Langkofel, of the N. face of the Grohmannspitze, and of the N. face of the Villnösserthurm. He was also one of the earliest to climb the Delagothurm. In the Western Alps he could claim the second ascent of the Schalligrat and the first guideless ascents of the Zmuttgrat and of the Teufelsgrat. In 1897, with Dr. Hans Brun, he made the first ascent of the stupendous N. face of the Grosse Windgälle ('The mountain has also been ascended by a very long, difficult, and dangerous route, up the great N. face.'—Ball, 'Central Alps,' Pt. I. p. 245). In 1900, in the company of Dr. Hans Lorenz, he made the third and hitherto unrecorded ascent of the intricate S. face of the Bietschhorn.

He took a prominent part during his student days at Zurich in founding in 1895 the since famous Akademische Alpenklub, Zurich. This quickly became the finest school of climbing in Europe, so that its membership carries with it to-day an almost unrivalled imprimatur. The Club showed its appreciation of his services by electing him an honorary member—a notable distinction. He is described by all his friends as a staunch and lovable companion.

J. P. F.

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY.

THE following additions have been made to the Library since January :—

Club Publications.

Akad. Alpenklub Bern. VII. Jahresbericht, 1911–12. 1913
9 × 6 : pp. 18.

New ascents are :—

A. Mottet, Lauterbrunner Breithorn, 1. Begehung d. O.-Grat v. Schmadijoch aus : *E. Häberli*, Oberaarhorn, neuer Aufstieg d. d. O.-Wand : *P. Simon*, Graspasp v. Rosenloui, 1. Begehung im Aufstieg.

Akad. Alpen-Verein Berlin. IX. Jahresbericht. 1912
9½ × 6½ : pp. 22.

Among the 'Bemerkenswerte Turen' are :—

K. Endell, 1. Begehung d. W.-Grates d. Gr. Mörchners : *A. Hoffmann*, 1. tur. Erst. Sass da Lastei : Pala di Vernel, 2. Erst. : Mte Alto, 1. tur. Erst. : *K. Burchhardt*, Forcella di Formenton, 1. Aufst. : *P. Borchers*, 1. Erst. d. Cavallo d. Torro : *W. Martin*, 1. Begehung Aig. de Béranger z. Dome de Miage : Tête Carrée, Aigs. de Trélatête, Aig. de l'Allée Blanche—teilweise neue Gratstrecken.

Akad. Alpen-Verein München. XX. Jahresbericht, 1911/1912. 1913
8½ × 5½ : pp. 92.

This contains :

G. Leuchs, Die ersten 20 Jahre d. Akad. A.-V. Among the 'Neue Touren d. Mitglieder' are :—*E. Wagner*, Hochkarsp. 1. Erst. ü. d. N.O.-Wand : *H. Dülfer*, Fleischbanksp. 1. Erst. ü. d. O.-Wand : *H. Pfann*, Törltürme, 1. Erst. v. kl. Törl : *W. v. Bernuth*, Lärcheck, 1. Erst. ü. d. O.-Wand : *H. Lossen*, Gr. Häuselhorn, 1. Erst. ü. d.