

## 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