

DEATH OF DR. VAN STRAELEN

IT is with deep regret that we learn as we go to press of the death of Dr. Victor van Straelen, of Belgium, president of the National Parks Institute of the Congo and a vice-president of the FPS since April, 1955. Dr. van Straelen was in England last October, when he came over specially for the ceremony at St. Katherine Dock of the commissioning of the *Beagle*, the ship for the research station of the Charles Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos, of which he was president. He had just returned from the international scientific project in the Galapagos and the dedication of the research station when he died. An appreciation of Dr. van Straelen will appear in the next issue of ORYX.

The Diamond Jubilee

By C. R. S. PITMAN

THE Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 16th December, 1963, with a dinner, attended by 134 members and their guests, in the Fellows' Restaurant of the Zoological Society of London. What has happened during these sixty years? What does the future hold for the world's wild life? Much has been accomplished, but there is much to be done. Achievements innumerable are recorded in the pages of ORYX, and in the *Journal* which preceded it. Referring to the Society, a Special Correspondent wrote in *The Times* recently, "Throughout the years one organisation (and for many years one alone) has sought to guide governments through conflicts caused by the rival claims of land developers, hunters, zoologists, and humanitarians." Here in a nutshell are the Society's aims and problems. Over these sixty years man, the arch-destroyer, has demonstrated the evil of which he is capable, and millions of wild animals, particularly in Africa, have perished. Sad reading indeed, but there is yet hope for the future, albeit the vicissitudes are many; we must safeguard what is left.

The Society's jubilee seems a fitting occasion to pay special tribute to Miss Kathleen Clarke, the Society's Assistant Secretary, for her thirty-five years long and devoted service, and to thank her most gratefully for all she has done, always so willingly and efficiently.

Retirement of the Secretary

This issue of ORYX ushers in a new era for the Society, when we welcome Mr. Richard Fitter as Honorary Secretary and Mrs. M. S. Fitter as Editor of ORYX, in the place of Lt.-Col. C. L. Boyle, who relinquishes these offices after fourteen arduous and eventful years. The Society's seventh Secretary, he was utterly dedicated and selfless, above all indefatigable and enthusiastic, and it is not overstating the case to claim that there are many species of wild animals now enjoying a better prospect of survival thanks to his zeal and unremitting efforts. Latterly, for several years he has been Chairman of the Survival Service of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. His expertise and the extent of his knowledge of wild life