

**John Robertson Henderson, C.I.E., M.B., F.L.S.**

BOTH in this country and in India, Professor J. R. Henderson made valued contributions to the knowledge of marine life, and for more than a quarter of a century he was an outstanding teacher of zoology in India.

Born in Melrose in 1863, John Robertson Henderson received his early education at Dulwich College and Dollar Academy, and later graduated in Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Like many another Edinburgh graduate, he made use of his medical training as a groundwork for the study of natural history; and, influenced by the teaching of Sir Wyville Thomson and the interest aroused by the return of the *Challenger* from its memorable voyage, he turned to marine zoology. During these early years of research he worked in the Firths of Forth and Clyde, in the former from a floating marine laboratory, christened "The Ark," which lay in a disused quarry west of Granton, and in the latter from Sir John Murray's small steam-yacht *Medusa*. To the faunal lists of both areas he made several contributions, mainly relating to zoophytes, mollusca, echinoderms, and crustacea. These preliminary researches, contributed to the *Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society*, led to his being entrusted with the description of the Crustacea Anomura collected by the *Challenger*, which, embodied in a report of over two hundred pages illustrated by twenty-one plates, appeared in 1888.

Before this work was published, Henderson had already left for India, where, in 1886, he had been appointed Professor of Zoology in Madras Christian College. For twenty-six years he carried on his teaching with conspicuous success, retiring only in 1911, after he had been appointed Superintendent of the Government Museum and Principal Librarian of the Connemara Public Library, as well as Keeper of the Madras Aquarium, on the retirement of Mr Edgar Thurston in 1909. He was instrumental in obtaining an increase in the Museum staff, reorganised and extended the natural history collections, and re-equipped the Aquarium. Most notable was the success of his efforts to make both Museum and Aquarium centres of education for the people, and the school demonstrations which he inaugurated are still continued as part of the essential work of the institution.

Henderson continued in India his marine researches, and in 1897 published an account of the Hermit crabs (Paguridæ) collected by

H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer *Investigator*. The breadth of his interests are hinted at by another of his Indian publications, an illustrated catalogue of the coins of Tipu Sultan.

A Fellow of the Linnean Society, Henderson was elected a Fellow of Madras University in 1886, and in 1918 his services to the Government of India were recognised by the conferment of the Companionship of the Indian Empire. On his retirement, upon reaching the age limit, he returned to Edinburgh, when he resumed his activities, long interrupted, on the Royal Physical Society, of the Council of which, as well as of the Council of the Zoological Society of Scotland, he became a member. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1923.

His wide and accessible knowledge and the geniality of his disposition gained Henderson many warm friends in India and in this country. He died in Edinburgh, after a short illness, on 26th October 1925, and is survived by his widow, a daughter of the late Mr W. J. Adie, of Voe, Shetland, whom he married in 1921, and by a son and daughter of a former marriage.

J. R.