

OBITUARY

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE. This distinguished naturalist died in England on November 7, 1913, in his 91st year. For sixty-four years he had been in active service as scientific explorer, thinker and writer. In 1845 he invited Henry W. Bates, a fellow naturalist, to accompany him on his four years' journey to the Amazon and the Rio Negro (1848-1852). Bates, himself a naturalist of great ability, inspired Wallace with his own zest for searching out the wonders of insect life, a subject which Wallace finally made his own. His "Narrative of Travels on the Amazon" was published in 1853. Between 1854 and 1862 Wallace traveled in the eastern part of the Dutch East Indies. The vast array of facts he collected on the natives, forests, birds and mammals and the generalizations he evolved from his data given to the world in his "The Malay Archipelago" established his fame as a scientist of the first rank. Darwin and Wallace each worked out the problem of evolution independently and before Darwin had published his idea he received a long letter from Wallace telling of the same discovery as it had come to him. Sir Joseph Hooker and Prof. Lyell brought the two independent manuscripts together and there was thus a joint publication of the discovery.

Among Wallace's voluminous later writings the world was most attracted to "The Zoological Geography of the Malayan Archipelago" (1860) in which the author announced his discovery of the Bali-Lombok boundary line (now commonly known as the Wallace Line) between the Asian and the Australian zoological regions. "The Geological Distribution of Animals" (1876) and "Island Life" (1881) gave Wallace rank as the founder of the science of zoogeography; and in "Tropical Nature" (1878) he reviewed the whole subject of the colors of animals in relation to natural and sexual selection.

Wallace also took great interest in some phases of social and economic problems. Among his later essays were papers on "The Nationalization of Lands" and "Studies, Scientific and Social"; and his last published essay "Social Environment and Moral Progress" appeared in 1913.