

to secure health sold his treasures on condition they were deposited in a colonial museum. The choice fell on the Australian Museum, Sydney, the name of the donor being Mr. Thomas Walker, a generous benefactor of science in our early days. This happened as long ago as 1877, but Hargraves in 1907 was elected a trustee of the Museum, and always, when he attended the trustees' meetings, used to look over the shells still on view with the labeling "Hargraves Collection." Born as long ago as 1839, Hargraves attended a trustees' meeting on Feb. 6 this year, and was delightfully normal until he passed away on April 9; the week before his death sending farewell messages to the staff of the Museum.

Many novelties were described from his collecting; the genus *Hargravesia*, *Voluta hargravesi* Angas and *Placostylus hargravesi* Cox being named in his honor.—TOM IREDALE.

R. MURDOCH

Some thirty years ago there arose in New Zealand a malacologist whose earliest papers stamped him as an accession whose name would be enrolled among the few great workers in our branch. Fine anatomical work was supplemented by excellent descriptive ability, while clear judgment was associated with splendid draughtsmanship. Obviously peerless in Neozelanic conchological circles, business duties necessitated strict attention to mundane affairs, and science perforce was sacrificed, while loss of his collection by fire probably disheartened him. After some years his interest was revived and attention to fossil forms was given in conjunction with Dr. Marshall. Now just as we were hoping to receive the best of news, his death was reported, and through his previous silence has been overlooked as it took place as long ago as November, 1923.

His communications were to the Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London and the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute. He was one of the earliest members of the former body, having joined in the first year of its existence.

The genus *Murdochia* was named by Ancey, and several species were named in his honor by Hedley and Suter. Mur-

doch demands attention from even the purely American conchologist, as he dissected and described the anatomy of the American genus *Ashmunella*, in the Journ. Malacology, Vol. VIII, pp. 73-85, 1901, accompanying a paper by Ancey in that connection.—TOM IREDALE.

NOTES AND NEWS

ZONITOIDES ARBOREUS (Say) IN MAMMOTH CAVE, KENTUCKY.—During a recent collecting trip in Kentucky, the greater part of one day was spent in Mammoth Cave collecting insects, arachnids and other small cave animals. In one of the lower levels of the cave, and fully a mile from the main entrance, a few snails were found beneath pieces of rotting wood on the floor of the cave. Dr. H. A. Pilsbry has identified these snails as *Zonitoides arboreus* (Say), a common species of the open. The cave specimens appear to differ in no respect from those found outside and it is probable that they have been recently and accidentally introduced.—SHERMAN C. BISHOP, Albany, N. Y.

ZONITOIDES ARBOREUS DELETERIOUS TO CANE.—Discovery that a small snail causes the root-rot disease, which has almost wrecked the sugar-growing industry of Louisiana, is announced by Dr. E. W. Brandes, plant pathologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Hitherto the mollusks, to which order the snails belong, have remained unconvicted as crop criminals. Dr. R. D. Rands, of the Office of Sugar Plant Investigation, however, found that *Zonitoides arboreus*, a snail so tiny that it easily travels through the tunnels made by earthworms, attacks the cane roots. As many as 150 of these little snails have been counted about the roots of a single plant. In their attack they leave minute cavities which are invaded by microorganisms from the soil. These latter complete the injury and often kill the plant. It is estimated that there is a reduction in crop tonnage of at least twenty per cent. directly traceable to the subterranean attack made by these snails whose sweet tooth is literally cutting off the Louisiana cane industry at the roots.—*Science Service*, in *Science*, Sept. 25.



Iredale, Tom. 1925. "R. Murdoch." *The Nautilus* 39, 69–70.

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