

Helen Ogilvie 1880—1960

It is with regret that we announce the death of Miss Helen S. OGILVIE in her 80th year. She was born in Dundee, Scotland, on 17th May 1880, and later studied under Sir D'Arcy W. Thompson at St. Andrew's University, where she obtained the degrees of M.A., B.Sc., with special distinction in Botany and Zoology. She then specialized in marine phytoplankton under Prof. H. H. Gran at Oslo.

Miss OGILVIE was appointed to the staff at the Aberdeen Laboratory

(then under the Fishery Board for Scotland) in 1911 where she worked mainly on the identification of phytoplankton and the planktonic food of fishes until her retirement in 1946. From 1920 to 1926 she was temporarily transferred to Dundee to act as assistant to Prof. D'Arcy Thompson who was Scientific Advisor to the Board. Her papers included several in the Council's series including her section in Gran's paper in the Bulletins Planktoniques and two in the Rapports et Procès-Verbaux. She continued her interest after she retired and remained voluntarily at the laboratory, during which time she produced the first sheet on copepod nauplii in the Fiches d'Identification du Zooplancton (Sheet 50), and did much towards the second sheet (Sheet 63) but had to discontinue because of gradually failing eyesight. Her keen interest in microscopy was inherited from her father, a tea and coffee blender whose hobby was the study and mounting of diatoms.

A keen mountaineer, there was hardly a mountain in Scotland she had not climbed and in days when transport was meagre; she also loved her garden and her music. She was very independent in spirit and had lived alone since 1926, even during the last years of her life when her eyesight was all but useless. She died peacefully on 29th May 1960, at her home in West Newport, by Dundee, and as she would have wished, retaining her other faculties and her independence to the last.

J. H. Fraser