

**OBITUARY.**

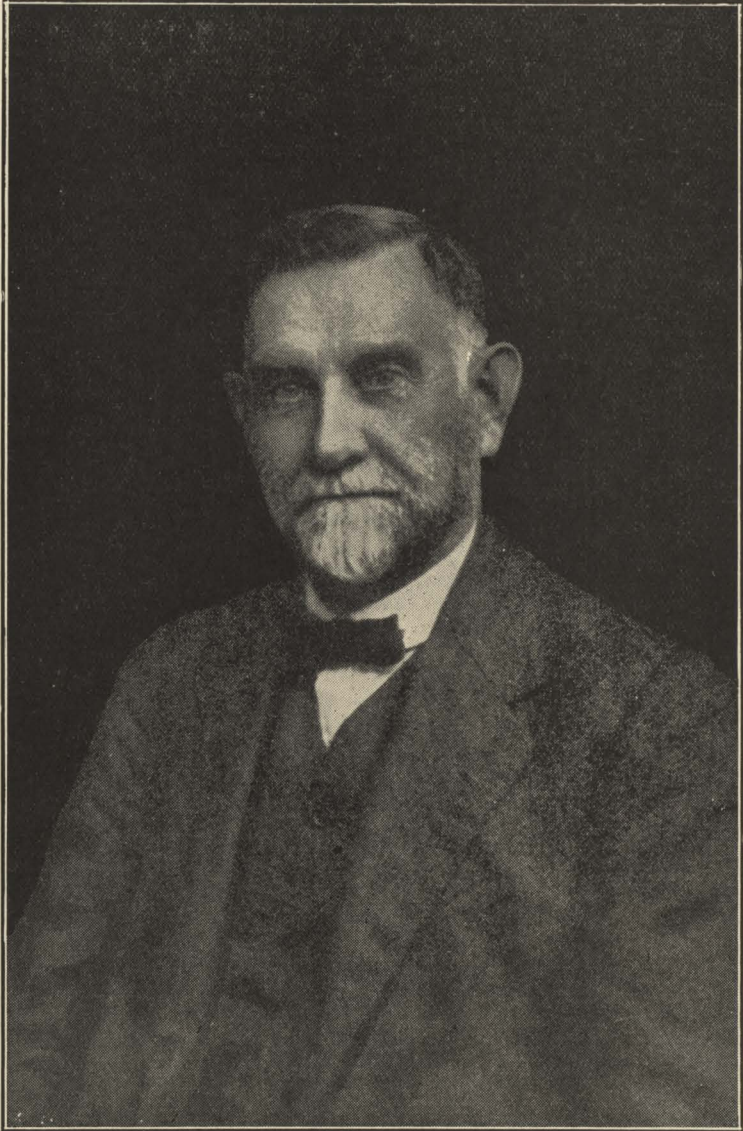
CHARLES CHILTON, 1860-1929.

CHARLES CHILTON was born at Leominster, Hereford, England, on September 27th, 1860, but went out to New Zealand with his parents while he was yet a young boy. Owing to hip trouble his left leg was amputated at an early age, but even with this great handicap he soon acquired the power of getting about with great freedom and activity. Those who have wandered with him in rocky and mountainous country were astonished at the way in which he could climb up and down with rapidity. His parents settled at East Eyreton in the Canterbury district. It was originally intended that he should become a farmer, an occupation which his younger brothers followed successfully. But for Charles a professional training was decided on, and he was sent to West Christchurch, where later he became a junior member of the teaching staff. He attributed much of the success which he afterwards achieved as a teacher to the training he received at a primary school. In commenting in after years on the professors he studied under, he often expressed the opinion that all teachers, whether in secondary schools or in universities, should be trained in the art of teaching.

Entering Canterbury College in 1875 as an unmatriculated student, he studied for three years, passed his matriculation examination, and at the end of 1878 gained a Junior University scholarship. Two years later he completed his B.A. degree with exhibition in Natural Science, and senior scholarship in English, Physics and Natural Science. In 1881 he gained his M.A. degree with 1st class honours in Zoology. At this period Captain F. W. Hutton was Professor of Biology in Canterbury College, and it was his association with this inspiring teacher and naturalist which led Chilton to concentrate his chief attention on biological study. On the advice of his professor he resolved to specialize on the study of the Crustacea, a group which up to that time had received little attention in New Zealand, but which has since under his hands become very well known. He also got into touch with the writer of the present sketch, who was then a member of the staff of the Otago High School, and who had already begun to study Crustacea (also following Hutton's inspiration), and the two collaborated for years in research on this interesting group. The friendship thus inaugurated was strengthened as the years passed, and was only closed by Chilton's death.

In 1886 he was appointed to a position in the Training College, Dunedin, and continued his studies at Otago University, taking the degree of B.Sc. in the following year, and being the first student to gain this honour in the New Zealand University. In 1893 he gained his doctorship in science, being again the first to gain this N.Z. degree.

While at the Training College he met Miss Elizabeth Jack, then a student in training there, and they were married in 1888, when he was appointed Rector of the Port Chalmers District High School. In



**CHARLES CHILTON**  
BORN 1860—DIED 1929



this position he was able to devote most of his spare time to the study of the marine zoology of Otago Harbour. From the point of view of a naturalist these were fruitful years, but there was no outlook for a man of his tastes and ambitions in the primary school branch of the teaching profession. It was the subject of much cogitation between himself and his devoted wife that ultimately led to his decision to throw up his position and devote himself to medicine as a career offering a wider field. It was a very courageous step to take, for it meant at least four years of work without earning, and a sacrifice of much previous effort and progress. But the decision was taken, and in 1895 he entered on his medical studies in the University of Edinburgh. This meant four years of strenuous work, but he was awarded prizes in Botany, Surgery and Physiology, and in 1898 gained his degree of M.B., C.M., with honours, and also won the Aitken Carlyle scholarship. He had all along resolved to specialize in his medical work, and he devoted himself especially to the study of diseases of the eye, ear and throat. In the following year he was house surgeon in the ophthalmic ward of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and in 1900 studied diseases of the eye at Heidelberg, Vienna and London.

On returning to New Zealand at the close of that year he wisely resolved to select his own city of Christchurch as his field of operations, and commenced practice as an ophthalmic surgeon early in 1901. At this time Dr. Dendy was Professor of Biology in Canterbury College, and having got a year's leave of absence, he got the Board of Governors to offer Dr. Chilton the position of *locum tenens*. Before the opening of the next session Dr. Dendy had accepted the position of Professor of Biology in King's College, London, and the Board appointed Dr. Chilton to the office thus vacated. He occupied the chair of Biology and Palaeontology till 1910, and from thence till his resignation, in 1928, the chair of Biology.

In 1915 he and Mrs. Chilton lost their only son (and child) Frank, a young man of great promise, who was killed in action on June 4th on the Gallipoli peninsula. He was a second year medical student at Edinburgh University, enlisted on the outbreak of war, obtained a lieutenancy in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and was sent out to Gallipoli attached to the Hampshires. His parents faced their loss with heroic fortitude. In 1921 Dr. Chilton was appointed Rector of Canterbury College, being the first to hold that position in any New Zealand or Australian university college. He resigned it in 1928. In recognition of his 26 years' service as Professor and Rector, Dr. Chilton was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Canterbury College at a meeting of the Board of Governors held in April, 1929.

During his professorship the Canterbury mountain biological station at Cass was established, where practical work in the field yielded profit and pleasure alike to teachers and students. All throughout his life he had devoted much attention to the encouragement of education. He was a member for several years of the committee of the West Christchurch District High School, a member of the Canterbury Education Board, and a member of the Board of Governors of Canterbury Agricultural College, Lincoln, and chairman of that body in 1927. Many of those who were long associated

with Dr. Chilton have spoken with appreciation of his work as an educationist. One reference may be quoted here; Dr. Hilgendorf said of him:—"I have never known a man who turned with such understanding and with such effect to the young; his influence in this direction was very great and no student or worker who had even the slightest connection with him but had felt that influence. Many have been guided by his wisdom and many have been inspired by his encouragement to carry on and complete their work."

Dr. Chilton's scientific researches were chiefly devoted to the Crustacea, and even in this group he wisely resolved to confine his work to the larger forms—specializing particularly in the Amphipoda and Isopoda. A few workers have worked over the whole field of this interesting class of animals, notably the late Dr. G. O. Sars of Christiania (Oslo), Norway. But most have found it the wisest plan to specialize. As already indicated, much of Dr. Chilton's inspiration was due to the teaching and example of the late Professor F. W. Hutton, who was not only an enthusiastic naturalist but a most generous and unselfish worker. The student in such a specialized line of research as the Crustacea is working a lone furrow as far as local co-operation and assistance is concerned. Dr. Chilton's earlier work in this field was largely carried on in collaboration with the writer of this memoir. But after his return to New Zealand he was in touch with workers in other parts of the world and thus broadened his researches and experience until he became a recognised and trustworthy authority in his special groups. His first scientific paper, entitled "Additions to the New Zealand Crustacea," was read before the Canterbury Philosophical Institute on 13th Oct., 1881, and was followed by one on 3rd Nov., "On some Subterranean Crustacea." The discovery and description of these well-shrimps from Eyreton fully opened his eyes to the fascinating research on which he had entered. In 1881 he became a member of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, and these first papers, published in Vol. 14 of the *Transactions of the N.Z. Institute*, were the forerunners of a series which lasted till 5th Nov., 1924, when his last paper (printed in 1926 in Vol. 56) was read before the same society. Altogether he contributed 51 papers to the *Transactions*.

His first foreign paper "On a Marine Species of *Philougrina*" was printed in 1884 in the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, Vol. 9, and this was followed by a great list contributed to some twenty different journals and societies. Among the most important of these were papers on "The Subterranean Crustacea of New Zealand," in the *Transactions of the Linnean Society*, Vol. 65; "The Amphipoda of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition," printed in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, Vol. 48; and on "The Fauna of Chilka Lake," in *Memoirs of the Indian Museum*. His contributions to zoological knowledge were published in New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, India, the Malay States, Holland, Germany, Sweden and the Philippine Islands.

His association with learned societies commenced in 1881 when he joined the Canterbury Philosophical Institute. He was elected President in 1903, 1904 and 1913. He became also a member of the Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute, first as represen-

tative of the Canterbury branch, and then for many years as a Government nominee; in 1913-14 he was President of the Institute. In 1917 he was awarded the Hector Memorial medal for "researches in zoology." Two years later he was gazetted one of the original Fellows of the New Zealand Institute; and in 1926 was awarded the Hutton Memorial medal "for his continuous researches on the Amphipodous Crustacea of the Southern Hemisphere." He was also awarded the Müller medal of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1892 he acted along with the present writer as a joint-secretary of the Biological section of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science which met in Christchurch that year, and remained an active member of that body. For some years he was convener of a sub-committee for the hydrographic investigation of New Zealand seas.

It was a matter of regret both to Dr. Chilton and to his friends that he had never brought together the results of his scientific labours, so far at least as certain branches of the Crustacea were concerned, into one monograph. This was certainly in his mind when he retired from the dual position of Rector and Professor in Canterbury College. He had made all arrangements for carrying on his researches at the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, but the strain of so many years of arduous and unceasing work told so severely on his health that he had to abandon the idea, and rest for over a year. He had, however, recovered his health later and was once more fully into the swing of his favourite research, when he succumbed to a sudden attack of pneumonia on 25th October last.

If Dr. Chilton had not achieved the success he did in scientific work he would have still earned the gratitude of the people of this Dominion for his contributions to education, and—as far as Christchurch and Canterbury were concerned—to social work. In every sense of the word he was a good citizen, labouring unceasingly for the public good. He took a keen and live interest in several public matters, and "his fellow workers can best tell of the scrupulous accuracy and thoroughness of his work, the unflagging industry that made it so, and the devotion to scientific truth that inspired this industry. No other life in the Dominion has ever been more generously given to the patient toil of learning and teaching, and yet has been so little in danger of becoming absorbed by them, to the exclusion of thought on the ends of learning and life."

Dr. Chilton's private life was sanctified by the unselfish comradeship, courage, and constancy of his life-partner. This was his greatest inspiration, not only in times of deepest sorrow, such as came to so many parents during war-time, but throughout all his public and private work. How great that inspiration was, only those most intimate friends knew, but it deepens the sympathy which is felt for one who has faced the difficulties of life with joyful ardour, and its sorrows with the utmost bravery.

GEO. M. THOMSON.