

## IN MEMORIAM<sup>1</sup>

THOMAS NELSON ANNANDALE

On the 10th April, 1949, some past and present members of the Zoological Survey of India assembled at the Scottish Cemetery, Calcutta, to pay their respectful homage to the sad and loving memory of Dr. Thomas Nelson Annandale, the founder-Director of the Survey, who died on the 10th April, 1924, twentyfive years ago. Wreaths, flower bunches and loose flowers were laid on the grave and those present stood in silence for some time remembering his brilliant career in India, his erudite learning, his love for the staff and his manifold kindnesses and courtesies to many. It was decided by those, who knew Annandale personally, that every year on this day they should assemble and pay their homage to his memory with floral tributes.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, with which he was closely associated throughout his period of service in India as anthropological Secretary, Vice-President, and as its President in 1923, perpetuates his memory by a triennial award of the Annandale Memorial Medal on a person who has made the most important contribution, during the previous five years, to Anthropology in Asia and the first award was made to Dr. Fritz Sarasin in 1928 in honour to Dr. Annandale's life work in physical anthropology. Thereafter, the award has been made alternately for physical and cultural anthropology. The Society has also a sepia portrait and an oil painting of Annandale in its rooms. In appealing for funds to perpetuate the memory of Annandale, the Council of the Society paid to him the following tribute :—

“Dr. Annandale occupied the foremost place in the ranks of Indian Zoologists. His scholarly research work earned for him meritorious recognition from the premier scientific Society in the world. His enthusiasm for the cause of scientific education in India was abiding. In him was combined the rare distinction of a scholar, erudite and industrious, and a personality, modest but engaging.

It is also in the programme of the Society “ that the balance of income of the Annandale Memorial Fund be suitably invested until the accumulated amount is sufficient, after paying for the triennial award, to provide Rs. 250 a year, to be utilised for a biennial Anthropological Lectureship”

Annandale was the last Superintendent of the Indian Museum and this office he held from 1907 to 1916. He succeeded Col. Alcock and relinquished the office on becoming the first Director of the Zoological Survey of India. The Trustees of the Indian Museum have also perpetuated his memory by putting up a brass tablet in the premises, the inscription on which reads as follows :—

“ In memory of Thomas Nelson Annandale, C. I. E., M. A., D. Sc., Director, Zoological Survey of India, Superintendent and Secretary to the Trustees, Indian Museum. Born 1876, died 1924. Erected by the Trustees as a token of their esteem ”.

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<sup>1</sup>An Obituary Notice of Nelson Annandale by the late Dr. S. W. Kemp appeared in the *Records of the Indian Museum* Vol. XXVII, pp. 1-28 (1925).

Lt.-Col. R. B. S. Sewell, C.I.E., F.R.S., Cidevant Director, Zoological Survey of India, at the request of the undersigned wrote a review of Annandale's work in India which is reproduced here. It brings out very clearly how Annandale was far ahead of his times, for to him any taxonomic work involved correlation of the fauna "with the climate, the geographical position and geological formation, the vegetation and the composition of the water of each district surveyed" He was of the opinion that "No one formula can express, much less explain, evolution" He very often told the writer that it was his intention to write a book on "Evolution" during leave which he intended to take when death snatched him away from us. His later writings show the magnitude of the loss suffered by the scientific world through his early death, for he had intended to incorporate the whole of his investigations and wide experience in his contemplated publication on "Evolution".

*Indian Museum,  
Calcutta.  
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S. L. HORA.