

**William Evans Hoyle, M.A., D.Sc. (Oxon.), M.R.C.S.***28th January 1855—7th February 1926.*

WILLIAM EVANS HOYLE was the son of William Jennings Hoyle, an engineer of Manchester, and began his education as an engineer at the Owens College, Manchester, where he gained prizes in engineering and in biology, including the Dalton Natural History Prize. In 1874 he was elected to a junior studentship at Christ Church, Oxford, and he graduated with first-class honours in Natural Science in 1877. He studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, became M.R.C.S., and was for a time Demonstrator in Anatomy in Owens College. In 1882 he came to Edinburgh, having been appointed by the Government as a Naturalist on the editorial staff of the "Challenger" office, under the late Sir John Murray, and for six years he bore a worthy part in the multitudinous affairs of that busy office during the period in which the zoological reports were approaching completion. His own contribution to the series of *Challenger* Reports was a volume (289 pp. and 34 plates) on the Cephalopoda (1886), and he published subsequently a number of reports on Cephalopoda from the Pacific (1904), from Ceylon (1904), the Maldives and Laccadives (1905), and from the Antarctic (1907, 1912); these last were upon the material collected by the National Antarctic Expedition and by the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition. Other publications followed on the anatomy, the luminous organs, and systematics of Cephalopoda, and his Presidential Address to Section D of the British Association in 1907 was a summary of his extensive knowledge of some of the more interesting features of the class. He also wrote on matters of museum organisation.

In 1889 Hoyle was appointed Keeper of the Manchester Museum, and here his great capacity for organisation and for the collection and skilful display of specimens enabled him to build up a museum which is appreciated by the University of Manchester as a fine teaching instrument and as a storehouse for material of great value in research, and by the city as a distinct element in the education of the people. His great success was due largely to his own careful thought upon the functions of a museum and also to his visits to the principal museums of Europe and America in quest of the best methods of displaying specimens, as a result of which Hoyle became an authority on the planning, construction, and equipment of museums.

Following the decision to institute a Welsh National Museum, Hoyle was asked to give advice on the provisional plans, and when the governing body decided in 1909, before proceeding further, to appoint a Director they wisely placed him in that important post. He spent his skill and energy on this enterprise, and the result is the noble building in Cathays Park, Cardiff. He retired owing to ill-health in 1924; and while, no doubt, he had the satisfaction of contemplating the successful issue of his efforts his many friends regretted that he should have had to withdraw before he had been able to achieve all that he had set himself to do.

Hoyle had a wide knowledge of zoological literature and rendered valuable service as a member of the *International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*. His personal knowledge of zoologists was very extensive, and he was on terms of close friendship with many of them. At the annual meetings of the *Museums' Association*, of which he was President in 1906, and of the *British Association*, he was welcome for his sagacity and for his genial humour. To the younger zoologists he endeared himself by his readiness to help them, often at considerable trouble to himself.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1883.

J. H. A.