

IN MEMORIAM

James Rushton John Llewellyn-Jones, 1894-1954

James R. J. Llewellyn-Jones, an only child, was born in Newcote West Avenue, Exeter, England, on 27th July, 1894. His father died in 1902 and during the First World War when James was in one of the branches of the armed services, his mother (nee Rushton) passed away; early in 1951 his aunt, sister of his mother, also died leaving James the last remaining member of both sides of his family.

I have not been able to get any information about his life in England beyond the fact that he was M.A. in Theology from Cambridge University, probably completing his work there after the war and was later attached to Exeter Cathedral for a short time. He was elected a Member of the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1925.

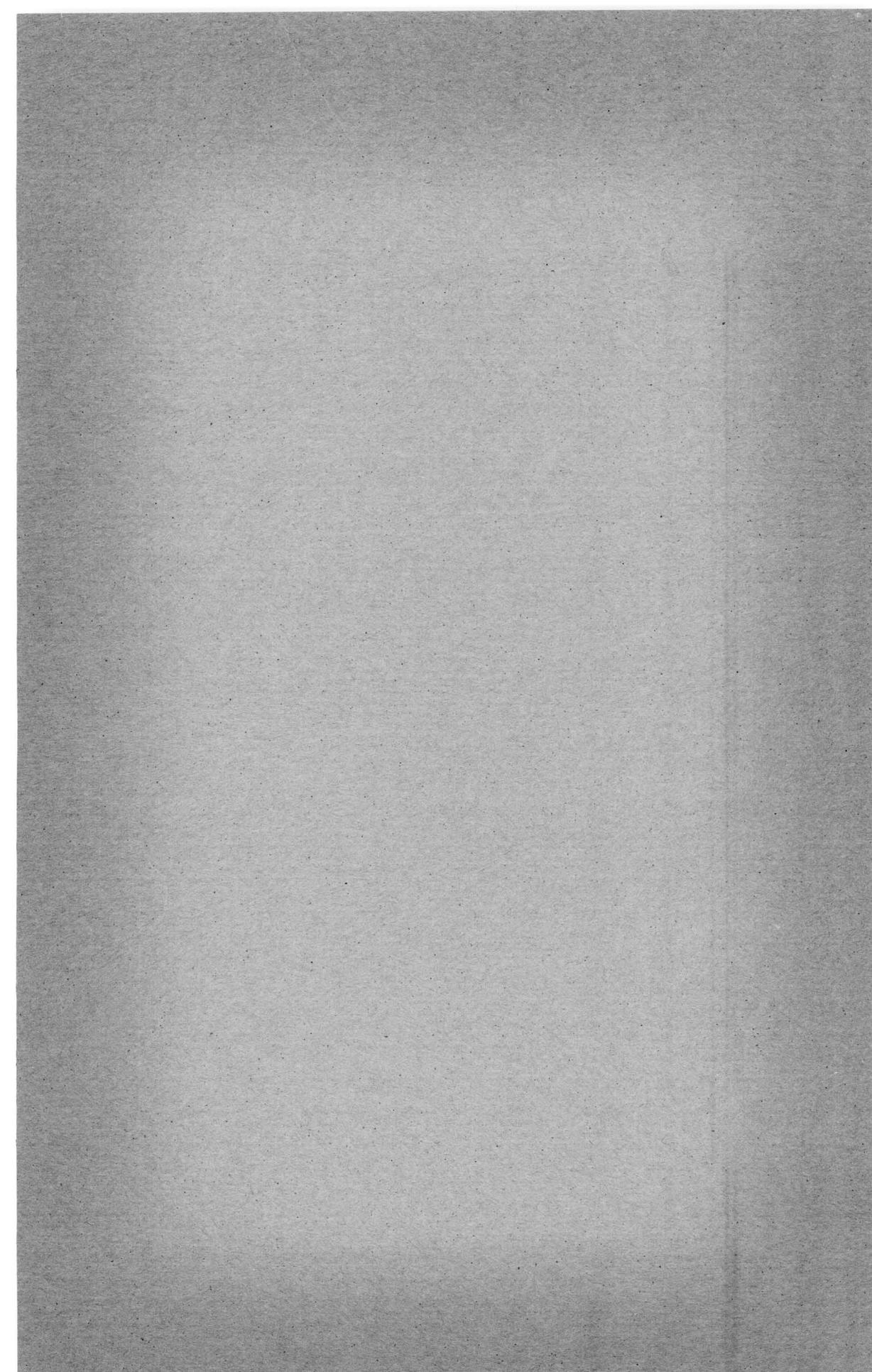
He came out to Canada in 1930 and in 1931 settled at Arranmore, Cobble Hill, in a large house and some twelve acres of beautiful grounds. Beyond telling us that he was the owner of the smallest registered yacht in the British Empire he very rarely said anything about himself and seemed to spend his time collecting and rearing Macro-Lepidoptera. Shortly after coming out, he joined the Entomological Society of British Columbia of which he was an enthusiastic member, never missing an annual meeting and, over the years, publishing nine papers in our Proceedings, on the "Food plants of British Columbia Lepidoptera". He was President of our Society from 1943 to 1947 inclusive and showed more presidential enthusiasm than any other occupant of the position in thirty years.

In his Presidential addresses he advocated and strove to accomplish three objects (1) the increase of entomological literature in the Province, (2) the establishment of scholarships in aid of deserving students in Entomology and (3) a reserve fund for publishing our Proceedings. Towards the first two items, he generously willed his entomological library to the University and for some seven years awarded the entomological scholarship which bore his name, to the University. To establish a reserve fund for publishing our Proceedings, he, as a single man without any relatives and being possessed of considerable private means, willed his estate upon his death, to the Society. Being a very modest and quiet man, he was insistent that this matter should not be made known to the members of the Society but now that he has passed on, it can be mentioned as an indication of his general interest in Entomology and his wish to help our Proceedings. Unfortunately, the second world war so depleted his investments which were still in England, that in 1951 he was forced to cancel this disposition of his estate. At this period also, he was forced to put up his house and grounds for sale and early in 1954, he moved to a hotel in Vancouver, sending his large cabinet of some five thousand specimens of Macro-Lepidoptera to the University for sanctuary. Since he had published "An Annotated Check List of the Macro-Lepidoptera of British Columbia" as Occasional Paper No. 1 of the Entomological Society of British Columbia in June 1951, at his own expense, his collection of perfectly mounted, labelled and catalogued specimens makes, with this annotated check list, a major contribution to our science and to the University of this Province.

After moving to Vancouver Mr. Jones used to come out to the University every Wednesday morning for a couple of hours to work over his collection, insert new material and generally keep it up to date; this, in spite of the fact that for a couple of years he had been in extremely poor health. By the autumn of 1954 his health had improved very considerably and the doctors' reports were very encouraging. On the 24th of November he came out to the University as usual, was very cheerful, looked quite fit and said that he was feeling very much better. Some time during the night of 25/26 November, he passed away in his sleep and was buried on December 4th from St. James Anglican Church. Six members of the Society acted as pallbearers and a considerable number of friends attended the service and followed to Ocean View Cemetery where our friend and colleague lies buried.

(My thanks are extended to Mrs. Janet Patterson, of Steveston, to Mr. A. D. Crease, solicitor of Victoria and to Mr. R. J. P. Barriscale of Vancouver for information concerning the early life of Mr. Llewellyn-Jones.)

—G. J. Spencer.



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