OBITUARY.

ANNIE CONSTANCE MEINERTZHAGEN
(née JACKSON).

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mrs. Meinertzhagen, which occurred as the result of a terrible accident at Swordale, her estate near Evanton, Ross-shire on July 6th, 1928.

Colonel and Mrs. Meinertzhagen had been engaged in revolver target-practice and while returning to the house Mrs. Meinertzhagen was examining her revolver in the belief that it was empty; this, however, was not so and her husband, who was walking ahead, was startled by an explosion and turning round saw his wife fall; and she was found to be dead.

In such tragically sudden fashion has the ornithological world been deprived of an accomplished and valuable worker, both in the field and the museum, and those who were privileged to know her, of a true and charming friend.

Mrs. Meinertzhagen was the elder daughter of the late Major and Mrs. Randle Jackson of Swordale and was born on June 2nd, 1889. She developed a taste for natural history at an early age and birds soon became her favourite study. After schooldays she and her sister, Miss Dorothy Jackson, the entomologist, took a three years’ course in zoology under Professor E. W. Macbride at the Imperial College. Meanwhile her work in the field, which commenced with photography, had turned to observing and collecting, and for many years she took a special interest in waders and ducks. Her collecting was done in a strictly scientific way and she skinned most of the birds herself. This material proved of the greatest value when she came to work out the plumages and mouls of her favourite groups for A Practical Handbook of British Birds.

As Miss A. C. Jackson she contributed many valuable faunal notes to the Annals of Scottish Natural History, commencing in 1909. These included the occurrence of such rarities as the Yellow-browed Warbler and Scarlet Grosbeak in Ross-shire; the breeding of the Gadwall, Pintail and Great Crested Grebe in Moray; the occurrence of the Barred Warbler and Greenland Redpoll in Tiree, where she spent the autumn of 1913, and other observations of considerable interest.

Her first contribution to British Birds consisted of a useful short article on the mouth-coloration of nestlings in November, 1908. Subsequently she wrote a series of valuable articles on the mouls of British ducks and waders, and these studies
formed the foundation of her later and more complete work contributed to the *Practical Handbook* on the plumages of these birds. Her methods were very thorough, and she not only examined all available material in this country, but also studied for three weeks Dr. E. L. Schiöler's magnificent collection of ducks in Copenhagen. It was while in the midst of this work for the *Handbook* that she became engaged to a brother ornithologist, Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, whom she married on March 3rd, 1921. To fulfil a promise, and not to delay the publication of the *Handbook*, she and her husband spent the first part of their honeymoon working at birds in Lord Rothschild's Museum at Tring.

In 1915 Miss Jackson was elected an Honorary Lady Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and to the *Ibis* of that year she contributed, jointly with Dr. E. Hartert, an article on certain waders. Recently Mrs. Meinertzhagen published in the same journal "A Review of the sub-family Scolopacineae," Part I. (1926), and "A Review of the family Cursoridae" (1927). She also made several communications to the British Ornithologists' Club, at the meetings of which she was a frequent attendant. But in recent years the needs of a growing family (she leaves three young children), to whom she was a very devoted mother, prevented her from doing so much ornithological work as before, though her keenness for the subject never diminished. Our sincerest sympathies are extended to her husband and family in their bereavement.

**JOHN PATERSON.**

By the death of John Paterson at Glasgow on June 20th, 1928, the Clyde district has lost its greatest authority on its avifauna. Fortunately his store of information is available in many contributions to publications of the local natural history Societies and to Scottish natural history journals and proceedings and in his note-books and correspondence. His many friends, and ornithologists generally, deeply regret that he could never be prevailed upon to write a book on the subject of Clyde birds; it would have been a worthy supplement to Robert Gray's pioneer work on the *Birds of the West of Scotland* (1871). The present writer knows that the late J. A. Harvie-Brown many years ago suggested that Paterson should take in hand the Clyde volume for his great series of the "Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland," but this is still amongst the things to be accomplished.
Any attempt at a list of Paterson’s published writings would be a lengthy document. His first published bird-paper appeared in the *Annals of the Andersonian Natural History Society* (1893), and his earliest notes in the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* are found in the volume for 1895. This connexion has been kept up all along and there are three notes from him in the *Scottish Naturalist* for March-April, 1928, pp. 52 and 61. Occasional notes were also contributed to *British Birds*. He edited the first parts of the *Glasgow Naturalist*, a publication generally recognized to be far superior in contents to similar local journals. For five years, 1904-8 (inclusive), the annual “Report on Scottish Ornithology,” published in the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* (1905-9), was compiled by him, and his sagacious and brief prefatory remarks to each Report are models of what was necessary. His most comprehensive work is the section on Birds in the “*Fauna, Flora and Geology of the Clyde Area*” (Glasgow, 1901, pp. 159-170)—Handbook for the Meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, 1901—an admirable and concise list. It is now being brought up to date for the Meeting of the same Association at Glasgow this year (1928), and Paterson was co-operating in compiling the card catalogue, revising and supplementing the list.

John Paterson was one of the class of field naturalists, now becoming scarce, whose interests were widespread, and amongst other groups he had a good working knowledge of botany, mycology and entomology. During the last few years a well-earned leisure from a fully occupied business life permitted him to pay several visits to southern Spain, and a collection of plants made by him in the spring of 1927 was destined for the Botany Department of the British Museum, South Kensington. He also recently gave a paper on the “Birds of Andalucia” to the Andersonian Naturalist Society, Glasgow. Of this Society he was in earlier days one of the Secretaries and later on President, and he also had filled the office of President of the old-established Natural History Society of Glasgow. His membership of the Gilbert White Fellowship, London, was a sure indication of his own predilections.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter and son; two younger sons fell in the War (1914-1918)—Alick and James (both 2nd Lieuts., The Cameronians)—losses which he bore with characteristic equanimity and fortitude but which undoubtedly clouded his later years.

Hugh Boyd Watt.