

OBITUARY

CECIL MCLEAN SMITH

It is with deep regret that we record the recent death in Wellington of Mr. C. M. Smith, immediate past president of this Society. Mr. Smith was elected president in 1958, and contributed much to the Society's work during his term of office. Unfortunately, he fell ill shortly before the 1960 Conference, and was unable to preside. Council members who have been associated with him appreciate just how much he contributed to the Society's progress and, in particular, to the success of the Conference.

Born in Dunedin on 27th October, 1892, C. M. Smith was educated at Otago Boys' High School and the University of Otago, where he graduated M.A. (Hons.). During World War I he served overseas and rose to the rank of captain. After the war he studied at Edinburgh University and graduated B.Sc. (Forestry) in 1921. Returning to New Zealand in 1922, he was appointed to the staff of the New Zealand Forest Service in which he was to serve for nearly thirty years. He went first as a ranger to the Southland Conservancy; then in 1926 was appointed conservator of forests in the Nelson Conservancy. In 1928 he was transferred to

Wellington, where in 1930 he was appointed chief inspector of the Forest Service. He held this position until 1951, when he was appointed director of the Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. There he remained until his retirement in June, 1958.

A highly original and philosophical thinker and a master of the English language, C. M. Smith made some notable contributions to the literature of New Zealand forestry, especially in the botanical field. He was widely respected for his understanding of the classical philosophies of botany and their relationship and application to modern studies. With his passing, the New Zealand Forest Service, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the New Zealand Ecological Society and other scientific bodies have lost a friend whose wide general scholarship and meticulous and keenly critical mind have earned him a respected and distinguished place in scientific circles.

C. M. Smith is survived by his wife and three sons.

K.E.L.