

William John Owen.

THE late William John Owen was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1927. He died suddenly at Canberra, Australia, on July 25, 1937.

Born in May 1887, he was educated in Melbourne, Victoria, and commenced his scientific career by studying pharmacy. He later found his special field lay with anatomy and histology, and he became associated with the Medical School of the Melbourne University.

In 1912 he joined Sir Colin MacKenzie in his work on comparative anatomy and the Australian fauna, work which at that time was undertaken in a private capacity. This activity of Sir Colin's later developed into the Australian Institute of Anatomy, situated in Australia's national capital, Canberra.

It was in 1930 that the Institute was established in Canberra, and Mr Owen, having resumed his connection with the work after being abroad in Europe and the United States of America, undertook the organisation of the Histological Department. His flair for his subject and unrivalled technique resulted in a splendid collection of thousands of preparations, for microscopic study, of the organs of the Australian Monotremes and Marsupials. It is probably correct to say that as far as the Australian fauna is concerned, no other museum houses such a complete collection of macro- and microscopical specimens, both as regards quantity and quality. On the histological side the loss of Mr Owen's services will be felt very severely.

W. C. M.