CHARLES OGILVIE FARQUHARSON.

By E. M. Wakefield, F.L.S.

In the list of passengers missing after the loss of the s.s. "Burutu," homeward bound from West Africa, on the night of October 3rd, 1918, occurred the name of Charles Ogilvie Farquharson, M.A., B.Sc., Mycologist to the Agricultural Department, Southern Provinces, Nigeria. C. O. Farquharson was born at Murtle, Aberdeenshire, in February, 1888, and was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen. From there he entered the University, in 1905, and at first intended reading for the Honours Degree in Classics. At the end of his second year, however, he decided to devote himself to Natural Science. After graduating in Arts he took the Science course, and gained his degree of B.Sc. in 1911, with special distinction in Botany. Shortly afterwards he came to Kew, and worked for a few months at Mycology and Plant Pathology under the late Mr. G. Masee. He was appointed Mycologist in South Nigeria, and sailed in the beginning of 1912.

The multifarious duties which fall to the lot of officers in Colonial Agricultural Departments did not leave him much leisure for purely mycological work. He was, however, keenly interested in the subject, and in the intervals of acting as Assistant Director, Entomologist, or Agricultural Inspector, as occasion demanded, he was able to collect fungi to some extent, and accumulated a fund of information with regard to plant diseases in West Africa. In a letter to the Assistant Director at Kew, dated September 23rd, 1918 and sent by the mail following the ill-fated vessel on which he sailed, he gave a graphic summary of his work, discussing the problems to be faced, and the kind of training his experience had led him to believe best for such work. This letter, which was published in the Kew Bulletin, No. 10, 1918, is of general interest to all concerned with tropical plant pathology. His sound judgment renders his views worthy of close consideration.

The letter shows that he had a strong presentiment that he might not reach home. His botanical friends mourn the loss of a very charming personality, as well as of a mycologist who promised to have a useful and distinguished career. Unfortunately much of his detailed knowledge is lost with him, as partly through modesty and partly through lack of time he had published little. Mr. Farquharson sent home to Kew

a number of interesting fungi, with full ecological notes. Lists of these were published in the Kew Bulletin, No. 7, 1914, p. 253, and No. 3, 1917, p. 104. In the Journal of Botany, 1916, p. 121, he published in conjunction with Miss G. Lister an account of South Nigerian Mycetozoa, in which two new species, *Physarum digitatum* Lister and Farq., and *Dichaea radiata* Lister and Petch, are described. His only other published mycological work is contained in the official reports of the Mycologist for South Nigeria.

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