

Dr D.P. Wilson died suddenly on 20 December 1991 aged 89. Born in Manchester he started work in the cotton industry but his main interest was in natural history and he entered Manchester University and in 1926 graduated with a first class honours degree in zoology. During his undergraduate years he had attended field courses at Millport, Port Erin and Plymouth. Awarded a DSIR grant to work on polychaete development he came to Plymouth in September 1926. In 1927 he was appointed student Probationer at the Laboratory and joined the staff as Assistant Naturalist in 1928. He retired in 1969 having served as Deputy Director since 1958. 'D.P.', as he was known to most of his friends, was internationally renowned for his studies on the factors controlling metamorphosis of marine invertebrate larvae, for his beautiful photographs of marine life and his development of the Aquarium at the Plymouth Laboratory.

The early research of D.P. involved describing and rearing in the laboratory the larvae of invertebrates, especially polychaetes and echinoderms. The search for the best conditions for development was coupled with his interest in having a supply of 'good water' for the Aquarium. Also these beautiful larvae proved ideal subjects for D.P.'s early experiments with flash photography.

During the 1939-45 war D.P. stayed in Plymouth and helped to organize the air-raid precautions and was part of the team that helped to save the major part of the building during the air-raids on 20 March 1941. During the periods 1930-40 and 46-48 D.P. was in charge of the organization of the well-known Plymouth Easter Classes. During these periods 584 students attended the classes and many zoologists must be grateful to him for introducing them to marine biology. In 1957 he edited the third edition of the *Plymouth Marine Fauna*.

Aside from the laboratory and his photography D.P.'s main activities were with his family and with the Plymouth Athenaeum of which he was an active member, and President in 1961-62.

In 1931 D.P. married Miss M.A. Westbrook who was carrying out research at Plymouth on marine red algae for her PhD. Alison completed her Doctorate and then

gave up formal research to become a housewife and mother. She was the ideal companion to D.P. with her keen interest in natural history, photography and local history. She died in 1981 and D.P. managed to make the adjustment, lived on alone and looked after himself, with the help of home helps, until his death. The older members of staff and visitors will miss D.P. but his superb photographs will remain with us as a memorial.