

## GIOVANNI PIERO MAGRINI

(17th May 1877-21st May 1935)

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A grievous loss has afflicted both the CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE and the review *La Ricerca Scientifica*. Giovanni Piero MAGRINI, who had been Secretary-General of the Consiglio since its foundation and Director of *La Ricerca Scientifica*, has been taken from us as a result of an illness which in two months conquered his robust constitution, his energy and his dynamic force.

Before taking up his heavy duties he had already shown proofs of his organising ability, his self-sacrificing spirit, and his intuition for applying science to practice.

He had previously been Director of the UFFICIO IDROGRAFICO DEL MAGISTRATO ALLE ACQUE of Venice, Chief of the UFFICIO IDRAULICO MILITARE DEL COMANDO SUPREMO, Commanding Officer of the bridging troops of the Piave and of the river guides during the Italo-Austrian war and Chief of the Expedition for the Exploration of the Seas of the Levant at Constantinople in 1920 and 1921. In charge of the hydrographic courses at the Royal Engineers' School at Padua, he had also been Director of the International Central Office for Oceanography. His gallant conduct in the war and the improvements which he made to guns earned him the rank of Colonel in the Artillery.

At the same time as his Secretary-Generalship of the CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE, MAGRINI was Vice-President of the REALE COMITATO TALASSOGRAFICO ITALIANO and Counsellor to the ISTITUTO DI STUDI ADRIATICI, and he prepared a monograph on the lagoons of Venice for the International Commission for the Exploration of the Mediterranean. The work he performed in these various institutions earned him many high honorary distinctions; his scientific activity also gained him signal rewards, besides his nomination as full member of the REALE ISTITUTO VENETO DI SCIENZE, LETTERE ED ARTI. He had already founded the Meteorological Observatory of the UFFICIO IDROGRAFICO at Padua, which was given the name of Giovanni MAGRINI in his honour. Everyone will remember his labours to ensure that Italy should worthily uphold her scientific supremacy at the Chicago Exhibition, and among his most recent accomplishments we must mention the creation of a bird-sanctuary in the park of Strà.

As witnesses to the vigorous impulse given by MAGRINI to the publications of the CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE and of the R. COMITATO TALASSOGRAFICO ITALIANO, may be quoted the *Bibliografia Italiana* with which he created a most useful bibliography of the different branches of knowledge, his volumes on scientific institutions and cultural organisations, his lists of Italian and foreign scientific periodicals, the international *Bibliographia Oceanographica* edited by him, with brief summaries in Latin, and finally this present Review, founded by him and so managed as to become the mirror of the work of the Consiglio and of all those who, in its various committees, were students of the technical scientific problems of interest to the national economy.