

SIR EDGEWORTH DAVID.

K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., F.R.S.

The death occurred on 28th August last in Sydney, Australia, in his 76th year, of Sir Tannant William Edgeworth DAVID, the great Australian scientist. He was educated at New College, Oxford, and in 1882 was appointed to the Geological Survey of New South Wales. From 1891 to 1924 he was professor of geology at the University of Sydney. He will best be remembered by readers of the *Hydrographic Review* as Chief of the Scientific Staff of Sir Ernest SHACKLETON'S Expedition to the Antarctic in 1909 when, being then 50 years of age, he led the climbing party which made the first ascent of Mount Erebus, and made, with MAWSON and MCKAY, the first sledge journey to the South Magnetic Pole, a journey which involved more than a thousand miles of man-hauling. In 1913 he was appointed Chairman of the Committee of Sir Douglas MAWSON'S Antarctic Expedition. Later, in the Great War, he recruited the Australian Mining Corps and served in France first in the capacity of geological expert to the Mining Engineers in the Australian Imperial Forces, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and later on the British Headquarters' Staff. For his services to the allied armies on the Western Front he was awarded the D.S.O. (1918) and was specially mentioned in dispatches.

He was a high authority on the origin of coral atolls, and his successful leadership of the Second British Expedition to Funafuti, in the Ellice Islands, to test out DARWIN'S theory of the origin of coral atolls by boring into that atoll, was followed by the award to him of the BILSBY Medal of the Geological Society of London in 1899 and his election to the Royal Society of London in 1900.

He was created a C.M.G. in 1910 and K.B.E. in 1920.

J. D. N.

