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JT Wilson and the Fraternity of Duckmaloi

Author: Patricia Morison

In the 1890s four young scientists at Sydney University - two Scots, a Londoner and an Australian - began sustained research into Australian native fauna for which each was awarded the FRS. They all went on to pursue notable careers in the biological sciences, concluding in London 46-8 and Cambridge.

This book follows their careers and enduring friendship exploring in detail the life of its senior member, J.T. Wilson (1861-1945), who was professor of anatomy at Sydney University (1890-1920) and Cambridge (1920-1933) and had abiding interests in science, philosophy, education and military affairs. The narrative is mainly concerned with issues of historical interest to scientists and medical educationists though some, like Empire relations and the contribution of Scots to Australia's development, will interest a wider readership. Many of the preoccupations of Wilson and his colleagues remain topical: the debate between biological science and religion; the struggle to interpret Darwin's theory without placing *Homo sapiens* at the top of an evolutionary tree; pure versus applied science; vocationalism versus scholarship in university education.

Readership

The book is of historical interest to scientists and medical educationists though some, like Empire relations and the contribution of Scots to Australia's development, will interest a wider readership.

Pages: xiii, 474
pp.

Language:
English

Subjects:
[History of Medicine,](#)
[History,](#)
[Contemporary History, History](#)

Publisher: Brill

Series:
[Clio Medica Online](#), Volume:
42
[Clio Medica](#),
Volume: 42

E-Book (PDF)
Released online:
01 Dec 2019

ISBN: 978-90-
04-41852-3

Hardback
Publication date:
01 Jan 1997

ISBN: 978-90-
420-0232-6

Paperback
Publication date:
01 Jan 1997

ISBN: 978-90-
420-0246-3

List price

For more information see brill.com

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Submission information: brill.com/authors

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