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### THE SHREW

held upon a tree stump, his left leg deep below the swollen shoulder. A torn eye filled with blood. Then more, for the tenth time, he snatched his throat from closing fangs, the effort cost him his balance and he struck the stump again. As his hand flung back he saw the collie's glare down and the great jaws open wide.

But they never reached him. From across the helpless body the yellow sprang. Her teeth met in the dog's neck ruff. The surprise of attack, more than its weight, drew the great dog suddenly on his back, his attacker pinning his head. In that second the little dingo was on his feet. The collie tensed to fling

the bitch aside. Instead, as the dingo's jaws did their terrible flank work, he crumpled and sagged.

In the next dawn dingo and bitch moved slowly up from the river, circling the horseman on the plain's edge. Out of sight along the ridge side they watched him dismount and examine the dead killer. The little dingo had to rest. He settled stiffly on the bare gravel in a long, pine shadow. His companion watched a while longer, motionless in the sun, as though a secret thought impelled her. Then she flung herself beside him. She flicked out a long, red tongue and licked his torn eyelid. When she had it clean she began on his swollen shoulder wound.

### OBITUARY

## F. Lawson Whitlock

AT the great age of 93 years, Frederick Lawson Whitlock died in Bunbury, W.A., breaking the last link with the great band of collectors in ornithology who laid the foundations of Australian science. He was born in Nottingham (England) on June 3, 1860, and published a number of scientific papers on English birds before he came to Australia in 1901.

In Australia, he immediately set about engaging in field studies of birds and organised a number of expeditions into hitherto unexplored country in search of new specimens. Most of these expeditions were undertaken on behalf of H. L. White, Scone, N.S.W., who lavished large sums on the collection and study of Australian birds, nests and eggs, and presented his unrivalled collections to the National Museum, Melbourne, shortly before his death. Among the noteworthy were a trip to Rottnest Island, off the north-west coast, and very close to the "atomic" island of Montebello; to the Nullarbor Plain; to the Kimberley district of Western Australia; and to Central

Australia in search of the night parrot.

In this last quest he did not succeed in obtaining, or indeed in seeing, a live specimen, but he did see the undoubtedly remains of one which had recently been caught and eaten by some aborigines, not far from the site of the camp made in the district by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union last year. That was in 1922, and was with one exception the last positive evidence of the existence of the night parrot as a living species.

He was a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union almost from its inception, and most of his contributions to ornithology were published in its quarterly journal, the *Emu*. He was more at home writing in scientific terms for his fellow-workers than in popular writing, so he lived and died less known to the general public than he deserved to be.

He leaves one son and one daughter; his wife died comparatively recently.