

OBITUARY

DR. ROMEO J. MANSUETI

With deep regret I wish to record the untimely death of Dr. Romeo J. Mansueti, Research Professor and head of the Fisheries Division of the University of Maryland's Natural Resources Institute, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Maryland, U.S.A. on June 2, 1963 after a very brief illness. Born on May 18, 1923 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he started his scientific career even as an undergraduate back in 1940, and took his doctoral degree from the John Hopkins University.

Dr. Mansueti was a born naturalist, a scientific writer of unusual scope and proficiency, a man of prodigious industry and remarkable insight into problems. Between 1950 and 1956 he was concerned with biological survey work, lake surveys, planning and carrying out fishery research projects, fish age and growth studies, and editing the monthly *Maryland Tidewater News* which described the results of the research of the Department of Natural Resource of his State. He was versatile, but it was as an ichthyologist and fishery biologist that he made his mark and in these fields he attained international reputation. From 1956 he devoted himself mainly to the investigation of the fish eggs, larvae and young from the Chesapeake Bay and the nearby Atlantic and at the time of his death was especially interested in the development of an atlas of the eggs and larval stages of all the fishes of the said region. His observations on the Atlantic bonito *Sarda sarda*, the little tuna *Euthynnus alletteratus*, and the king mackerel *Scomberomorus cavella* published at different times in the *Chesapeake Science* show the great pains he took for accuracy and details. 'A Historical Review of the Shad Fisheries of North America' by Mansueti and H. Kolb (Contr. No. 97, *Md. Dept. Res. & Ed.*, 293 pp. ill. 1953) has been highly commended as an outstanding contribution. Other significant works of his relate to population studies on the striped bass *Roccus saxatilis*, and the white perch *Perca flavescens*. Marine biologists throughout the world would undoubtedly find his work 'Commensal and parasitic behaviour between fishes and jellyfishes, with new data on that between the Stromateid *Peprilus alepilotus* and the scyphomedusan *Dactylometra quinquecirrha* (*Chesapeake Sci.* 3), a very useful and important reference.

Dr. Mansueti was responsible for the conception and establishment of the research journal *Chesapeake Science* which, as widely recognised brought distinction to his Institution and considerably improved the quality and quantity of research in that region. He was ichthyological editor of *Copeia* the American Journal of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (1959-1963); a Fellow and Member of several scientific bodies and organizations; and was twice recipient of the United States National Science Foundation grants for his research projects.

To the scientist, the ability to interpret complex scientific problems to the layman is a rare gift and in this also Dr. Mansueti excelled. He was an able speaker communicating effectively with the wide variety of audiences contacted by his Institution ranging from the public and students to major professional societies. One of his finest qualities was his vast patience with young people, many of whom he inspired to go into the field of science. He was always able to keep up with productive research in spite of ever increasing administrative work associated with fishery legislature, departmental and federal activities. His tireless enthusiasm for work and catholic outlook which inspired his students and colleagues will long be remembered. His premature death in the midst of active research is a great loss to science.

Dr. Mansueti was an expert photographer, an excellent artist, and always deeply interested in music and literature. He had able assistance from his wife Alice Jane Mansueti who is responsible for several of the professional drawings appearing in his works. Our heartfelt sympathies are due to her and their four children,

E. G. SILAS,



Dr. Romeo J. Mansueti
(1923—1963)



Prof. M. O. P. Iyengar, M.A., PH.D. (Lond.), F.L.S., F.A.S.C., F.N.I.
(1886—1963)