

OBITUARY.

SIR JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, KT.,
F.R.C.S., M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

BORN JULY 23, 1828.

DIED JUNE, 1913.

IN Sir Jonathan Hutchinson there has just passed away in his 85th year an eminent physician, a Fellow and (in 1889 and 1890) Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons, most distinguished as a specialist in diseases of the skin; elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (1882); one of the most kindly and unselfish of men, ever ready to do good to others. Outside the medical profession—to which he devoted a long and laborious life, and spent much money and time in advancing—his pet idea was that the establishment of small local museums, scattered about the country, would be of the greatest value as aids to education. He himself established and supported two such, one at Selby in Yorkshire (his birthplace) and the other at Haslemere, at which latter place was his home,¹ and where he retired after a long and strenuous career as a medical man.

Although intensely interested in geology, he could from his well-stored mind address an audience on a great variety of subjects, and was never so happy as when lecturing to a roomful of country people or to young folks. The pleasure of imparting information to others was only equalled by the eagerness with which he sought and acquired knowledge. History, poetry, archæology, botany, and geology all in turn attracted his attention and were studied with care. Even when 73 years of age, he travelled thousands of miles in India and Cape Colony in pursuit of his investigation into the cause and origin of leprosy, eager to help to relieve the sufferers and, if possible, to cure them. Like his colleague Sir Joseph Lister (both members of the Society of Friends), Jonathan Hutchinson leaves behind him the record of a life devoted to the welfare of his fellow-men and the relief of human suffering.

DR. P. LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.R.S.

BORN NOVEMBER 4, 1829.

DIED JUNE 27, 1913.

WE much regret to record the death of Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., Hon. Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, at his country seat, Odiham Priory, Winchfield, Hampshire, at the advanced age of 84. He was the second son of William Lutley Sclater (his elder brother being the Right Hon. G. Sclater-Booth, afterwards Lord Basing). He was educated at Twyford and Winchester, where he obtained a scholarship at Corpus, and took his degree and a first in mathematics at Oxford in 1849, remaining there two years afterwards. Later Dr. Sclater entered Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar in 1855. Under the influence of Strickland he took up ornithology, and spent some years in travelling in Italy, Sicily, Canada, and the United States. Later on he visited Morocco, Egypt, South Africa, and the West Indies.

¹ The Library, Inval, Haslemere.

He was one of the founders of the British Ornithologists' Union, and was editor of the *Ibis* for over fifty years. He contributed several bird-catalogues to the British Museum, and was recognized as one of the leaders of systematic zoology. He became a Fellow of the Zoological Society in 1850 and was elected Secretary in 1859, which office he held until 1902 (a period of forty-three years), when he retired on a pension. He was deeply interested in the scientific side of zoology, and largely promoted the publication of the *Zoological Record* (founded in 1864), which he induced the Zoological Society to aid by an annual grant and to be wholly responsible for from 1866 to nearly the present time.

Dr. Selater was also keenly interested in promoting the carrying on of the *Index Generum et Specierum Animalium*, by Mr. Charles Davies Sherborn, F.G.S., F.Z.S., which was commenced by the author in July, 1890, and is *still in progress*—a stupendous undertaking to be carried out by the labour of one man. At the date of the first notice (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1896, p. 610) 130,000 slips had already been stored away in alphabetical order (see *GEOL. MAG.*, 1896, pp. 557–61). The first volume of this famous work, which occupied eight years in its production, was issued in 1902 by the Cambridge University Press, and embraced all names from January 1, 1758, to December, 1800, and contains 61,600 entries. The work, under the support of a committee, has been continued, and each year its author has issued a report of progress. The slips are stored in the Natural History Museum, where they are always accessible to all workers in zoology.

As regards the continuation of this important undertaking, Dr. Selater had the pleasing satisfaction to know in April of last year (1912) that the Trustees of the British Museum had resolved to take over the work of the compilation of the *Index Animalium*, and had given Mr. Sherborn rank as a "Special Assistant" on the staff of the British Museum (Natural History).

One who knew Philip Lutley Selater well writes: "The death of Dr. Selater deprives many of a real friend, and science in general of a warm supporter. A zoologist primarily, he yet found time to take an interest in geology, and was ever ready to learn what geology had to teach in the elucidation of questions of geographical distribution and evolution. As Secretary to the Zoological Society he had often led parties of geologists around the Gardens."

We cannot conclude this brief notice of Dr. Selater's valuable services to science without a passing reference to his important contribution to the study of the geographical distribution of animals.

In 1858¹ he discussed the primary zoological divisions of the earth, taking birds as the basis, and designated six great regions, which he named the Palæarctic, Æthiopian, Indian, Australian, Nearctic, and Neotropical. Although the general tendency at present is to unite several of these regions together, they nevertheless have proved of great service to palæozoologists in dealing with the broad questions of geographical distribution of animals in the past, and it is interesting to find how far Dr. Selater's studies in zoology had advanced our

¹ Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc. (Zoology), vol. ii, pp. 130–45 (1858).

knowledge more than fifty years ago, even before Wallace and Darwin had entered the field.

Dr. Sclater's eldest son, Mr. W. L. Sclater, M.A., like his father, is distinguished as a systematic zoologist.

JAMES LOGAN LOBLEY, F.G.S.

BORN 1833.

DIED JUNE 27, 1913.

By the death of J. Logan Lobley the Geologists' Association of London have lost one of their earliest friends. In 1865 he became a member of the Association and a Fellow of the Geological Society, but most of his attention was bestowed on the younger body, of which he was Honorary Secretary and Editor 1871–3, Editor alone till 1881, and Treasurer 1881–5. Deeply interested in the field-work of the Association he conducted many excursions, and those to the Weald of Kent, in 1879 and 1882, will long be remembered by many who took part in them. Lobley's chief written work was his *Mount Vesuvius*, 1868, expanded from a pamphlet to a volume in 1889. He also wrote a separate volume on *Hampstead Hill* in 1889, and contributed a score of papers on various subjects to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* and other serials.

From a position of comparative affluence fortune had laid him low, and his later years had been sad ones, in which he had eked out a poor living by coaching explorers and others in his favourite science. But he worked on to the last and passed away at the age of 80, at 36 Palace Street, S.W., just a few days before the announcement that the Government had awarded him a Civil List Pension of £60, of which he had already drawn a very welcome instalment, lightening the trouble of his last few months.

He was buried at Hampstead Cemetery on July 1, attended by Dr. W. S. Bruce, the Antarctic explorer, and a few other devoted friends from the Geological Society and the Geologists' Association.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WE learn from *Nature* (May 29, 1913) that a "new iron Bacterium" has been described by Mr. E. M. Mumford in the Transactions of the Chemical Society. It was discovered in the Bridgewater Canal tunnels at Wasley, Lancashire, where the water contains much iron derived from colliery pump-water. The new bacterium appears to have a twofold action, an aerobic action whereby it precipitates ferric hydroxide from iron solutions, and an anaerobic action which transforms the ferric hydroxide into bog iron ore with partial reduction of the iron to a ferrous state.

RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR C. LAPWORTH, F.R.S.—We learn that Professor W. S. Boulton, B.Sc., F.G.S., Assoc. R.C.S., Professor of Geology at University College, Cardiff, has been appointed to succeed Professor C. Lapworth, F.R.S., who is retiring at the close of the present session. Before his appointment to University College, Cardiff, Professor Boulton had been assistant lecturer in geology at Mason College under Professor Lapworth (*Nature*, June 12, 1913).