

### Dr. C. I. Forsyth Major.

Dr. Charles I. Forsyth Major, F.R.S., whose death occurred on 25th March, at the age of 79, was the author of upwards of eighty memoirs published by the scientific societies of England, France, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland, on the later fossil Mammalia, their systematic morphology and geographical distribution. His work covered a wide range and included the exploration of the Tertiary, Post-Tertiary, and Recent mammals of Italy, Corsica, and Sardinia, the Miocene vertebrates of Samos, etc., and the Tertiary and Recent vertebrates of Madagascar. He discovered the first skeleton of the extinct bird *Aepyornis*, an extinct *Hippopotamus*, a giant lemur, *Megaladapis*, and a new type of ape, *Nesopithecus*, besides numerous other species. He amassed very considerable collections which were mostly deposited in the British Museum, where he was at one time temporarily employed. In his later years he spent much of his time in Corsica where he continued to pursue his palæontological studies. It is feared that much of his later work, such as that on the geological position of *Samotherium* and on the living Okapi will never be published.

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### Count F. de Montessus de Ballore.

BORN 1851.

DIED 1923.

All students of the geological aspects of earthquakes are acquainted with the "Géographie Séismologique", a great work containing records of 160,000 earthquakes, and bringing out the principal facts regarding their distribution in space. A second general work "La Science Séismologique" appeared in 1907. In the same year the author was appointed director of the earthquake-service in Chile, which he conducted with great success. M. de Montessus de Ballore was undoubtedly in the first rank of the not very numerous scientific students of seismology, a subject whose development on modern lines owes much to his work.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE ISLAY SUCCESSION.

SIR,—In *Proc. Geol. Soc. London*, 28th April, 1923, p. 77, Mr. George Barrow states that it is possible in discussions of Islay geology to start "from the base of the Quartzite (the Central Highland Quartzite) which occurs along nearly the whole of the south-eastern side of Islay, a little inland. Mr. Wilkinson gives the evidence that this is the base in great detail, the lowest part of the rock being often black, and at times containing slabs of underlying material (now a graphitic phyllite) fully a foot long".

Perhaps I may recapitulate in outline my reasons for disagreeing