

tude, his perfect lucidity of thought and speech, the richness and rarity of his store of learning in so many fields, and the scrupulousness of his taste, which abhorred and swept before it all that partook of the pretentious or the base.

Prof. Miall's intellectual interests were not confined to science. He had a real love of art and music, and was keenly interested in the works of Greek and Latin authors and in the classics of English, French, and German literature. His activities in biology, both as teacher and as investigator, coincided with the great output of biological work which followed upon the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species." His earlier scientific memoirs were mainly geological and palæontological. Shortly after he was appointed curator of the Museum at Bradford he was instrumental in bringing to light a newly discovered Labyrinthodonta which had been found in a coal mine at Low Moor. It was in connection with this discovery that he first made the acquaintance of Prof. Huxley and Sir Charles Lyell, and the incident seems to have been a turning point in his career. Between the years 1869 and 1881 he published numerous papers on geology and palæontology. He also wrote a manual for students on "The Skull of the Crocodile," and, in conjunction with F. Greenwood, an important memoir on "The Anatomy of the Indian Elephant."

From 1881 onwards Prof. Miall's biological investigations were mainly confined to the structure and development of insects, and his books on "The Cockroach," "The Harlequin Fly," and "The Natural History of Aquatic Insects" are among the most important memoirs on insect structure and development published during the latter half of the nineteenth century. These books, which are written with great lucidity and charm, have been an inspiration to many naturalists, and are enduring examples of how to "study the works of Nature with open eyes."

In his love of Nature Prof. Miall had very much the temperament of Gilbert White, and in collaboration with his friend Dr. W. Warde Fowler he brought out a scholarly edition of "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne," enriched with an abundance of notes explaining and amplifying Gilbert White's observations. The historical side of biology always had great attractions for him. He paid attention to it in his teaching, and two books from his pen, "A History of Biology" and a remarkably interesting account of "The Early Naturalists and their Work," testify to the wide range of his reading and the great knowledge which he possessed.

Prof. Miall's zeal as an educational reformer is well known. In his book on "Thirty Years of Teaching" his ideals and aspirations are clearly set forth, and in his "Object-Lessons from Nature," "Round the Year," and "House, Garden, and Field" he has given a most delightful insight into the methods which should be employed in the rational study of natural history as opposed to mere collecting and the compila-

tion of lists of species. He was far from disparaging the study of systematic zoology or botany, but he did most strenuously deprecate aimless work "which springs from no real curiosity about Nature and attempts to answer no scientific questions." He loved Nature with all his heart, and ever served her faithfully.

A. S.; H. W.

By the death of Prof. Louis Compton Miall, emeritus professor of biology in the University of Leeds, there passes away the last but one of the small body of teachers—less than a dozen in number—who, as members of the professoriate of the Yorkshire College, may be said to have laid the foundations of the University and, in a measure, to have fashioned its aims and destiny. The Yorkshire College, the progenitor of the University, was established in Leeds in 1874. Miall, who at that time was secretary and curator of the Museum of the Philosophical and Literary Society of Leeds, had acquired more than a local reputation as a geologist and botanist, and was then embarking upon the biological inquiries upon which his position as a man of science mainly rests. He was known throughout the West Riding as an excellent teacher and an admirable lecturer who could always command the interest and sympathetic attention of his audience. It was inevitable that the college should seek to secure his co-operation as a member of its staff. He joined it first as lecturer, and afterwards as professor of biology in its second session, and his appointment marks a turning point in its history. In its earliest days its governing body had no clearly defined policy concerning its scope and functions. It had been established partly in response to a demand for greater facilities in technical education, and partly from a desire to see in Yorkshire an institution similar in character to that of Owens College in Manchester. One section would make it a technical or trade school pure and simple, whilst another section, of more liberal views and with more sympathy towards the *literae humaniores*, hoped it might develop upon broader lines. The accession of Miall determined the issue; biology had no immediate or obvious place in the curriculum of such a trade school as was then contemplated. Professors of art subjects were thereafter added as quickly as the finances of the struggling institution permitted, and the college was thus fairly placed upon lines that directly led first to its inclusion in the federated Victoria University, and eventually to its independent establishment as the University of Leeds.

The turn in the fortunes of the Yorkshire College was without doubt largely determined by the personality and character of Miall and by the respect in which he was held by all who knew him and had the interests of the institution at heart, whatever might be their conception of its functions. By no section of the body corporate was he more warmly welcomed than by the staff.

They had already learned to appreciate his powers and capacity and to admire his manifold attainments. He was a cultured, well-read man with many interests, literary and scientific, a somewhat fastidious critic with a high standard of excellence, but with sympathy and of sound judgment. As a colleague he was all that a colleague should be—unselfish, painstaking, hard-working, and loyal, always ready to put his knowledge and his experience at the service of his fellows. In the college councils he was never argumentative or captious—a man of few words, disposed more to listen than to speak. When he did intervene in a discussion what he said was weighty and strictly to the point, and seldom failed to convince the majority of his colleagues. His sense of fairness, his impartiality, and his freedom from prejudice made him strive to see the other man's point of view and to give it its due weight. This was so obvious that it gave his judgments much of their power and influence. One felt that when Miall reached a conviction, and gave utterance to it in his characteristic slow and deliberate tones, he was probably right.

The development of the Yorkshire College, as compared with that of Owens College in its early days, was comparatively rapid. The times were of course different, and public appreciation of the benefits of such institutions was far greater in 1874 than in the early 'fifties. Moreover, the Leeds institution had never to struggle against the prejudices, religious and social, which at the outset dogged the progress of John Owens's foundation. But this rapid development was not unattended with its crises. There were times of difficulty and of anxiety which the teaching staff was called upon to share. It was on such occasions that Miall's strong common sense, sound judgment, knowledge of affairs, and business aptitudes were of special service, as, for example, in the movement to house the college in more appropriate and more dignified quarters than it at first possessed; in the discussions concerning the plan and arrangements of the projected new buildings; and finally during the course of the delicate negotiations which preceded the federation of the college with the Victoria University.

As one who took his fair share in the various stages of the development of the college during the first eleven years of its existence, and recalls its early struggles, and their outcome, with no small measure of satisfaction, it affords me a special gratification to bear testimony to the loyal and devoted service of one of the truest friends the University of Leeds ever possessed.

T. E. THORPE.

THE Editor invites me to write a few words about the late Prof. L. C. Miall, a man whom I seldom met, but when I did, always with interest and pleasure. More than twenty years ago, when we were editing White's "Selborne" together, I wished to know more of him, and invited him to Oxford for a Sunday. It was like

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him to have brought no evening dress, but we had a fruitful time, and I found in the man a rare simplicity of mind and manners, and a great interest in his own experience, which he perhaps imparted more freely to a classical man than to one of his own circle. I heard the early history of the chance given him through Prof. Rolleston: how he asked a question after a lecture and was invited to talk it over next day before Rolleston left for Oxford, the result being that Rolleston stayed all day to talk to him and thereafter never forgot him. I heard the story of the little society of scientific men formed to read Homer, and later on he wrote me several letters about the best way to teach a boy Latin: a job which in his "emeritus" days he greatly enjoyed, doing it of course in his own peculiar and independent way.

Miall's enthusiasm in his own work was unbounded, and to communicate it to others the great delight of his life. He fairly astonished me, after a visit here at Kingham, by sending me as a gift the five splendid volumes on insects of Réaumur, and later on his own book on the early naturalists, one as great a treasure as the other, for his own beautiful English was as clear and enjoyable as Réaumur's French. He did, in fact, fit me out with a simple apparatus following the course of his own studies, so intensely did he wish his friend, only five years younger than himself, to share his enthusiasm. He once gave me a whole morning's microscopic teaching in his laboratory at Leeds, but though he fitted me out to continue his course I had no time to do so. That at my age he should have thought it possible shows the simplicity of his mind. Miall was one of those men who love teaching for its own sake, and the charm of his personality was such that I spent the time gladly and gratefully. But it was difficult, I found, to get him to bring his mind to bear on something quite new and out of his own experience. At Kingham I once took him to see the work of some mice in a flooded meadow which was new to me, but he had something else which he was expounding to me at the moment, and was not to be enticed. I shall always cherish his memory as one of the straightest and simplest Englishmen I ever knew.

W. WARDE FOWLER.

PROF. R. B. CLIFTON, F.R.S.

PROF. ROBERT BELLAMY CLIFTON was born on March 13, 1836, and so had nearly completed his eighty-fifth year when he died on February 21. The only son of a Lincolnshire gentleman, he received his education at University College, London, and at St. John's College, Cambridge, coming out sixth wrangler in the Tripos of 1859 and second Smith's prizeman, the senior wrangler and first Smith's prizeman being Canon Wilson. His Cambridge record is typical of his subsequent career; he was a man of great learning, but also of great deliberation. Obtaining a fellowship at St. John's, he went to Owens College, Man-