

Obituary.

WE regret to see the announcement of the death, at the ripe age of eighty-three, of Mr. JOHN THOMSON, a well-known pioneer in the application of photography to the furtherance of geographical knowledge at a time when the photographer depended for success on his own skill rather than on the improved appliances which have since put the art within the reach of every amateur traveller. Mr. Thomson started for the Far East in 1862, and, after residing for a time at Singapore, in 1865 undertook the first of his more ambitious journeys, which took him to the interior of Cambodia, where he secured excellent pictures of the wonderful antiquarian remains lying buried in the tropical jungles, particularly at Nakhon Wat. Under the title "The Antiquities of Cambodia" he published in 1867 a selection of these photographs in book form, with descriptive letterpress, thus making those imposing ruins first generally known to the British public. Later he extended his wanderings to China, both visiting many of the ports and making trips into the interior, one of which took him up the Yangtse beyond the gorges of its middle course. In 1873 he issued an extensive series of photographs, illustrative of China and its people, in four folio volumes. Two years later he published a general narrative of his "ten years' travels, adventures, and residence" in the Far East. Once more, in 1878, he made use of his camera for the illustration of a country more or less off the beaten track—this time the island of Cyprus—on which he issued an illustrated work in two quarto volumes in 1879. When, about this time, a scheme of instruction for intending travellers was set on foot by the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. Thomson, who had become a fellow of the society in 1866, was put in charge of the instruction in photography, for their proficiency in which many travellers have been largely indebted to his valuable hints. At his studio in Bond Street he had the privilege of taking the portraits of many distinguished modern travellers, and he extended his collection to those of earlier times by photographic reproductions of existing portraits.

WE announce with regret the death of DR. JOHN WARD COUSINS on September 22 at the age of eighty-seven years. Dr. Cousins received his medical training at St. Thomas's Hospital, and proceeded to the degree of M.D. (Lond.) in 1859. In the following year he became a fellow by examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, and after a short time at hospital practice devoted himself entirely to surgery. In connection with this work he quickly made himself prominent by the numerous inventions and improvements in surgical instruments which he devised. His ingenuity received its reward in 1884, when he was awarded a prize by the British Medical Association

and a gold medal by the International Inventions Exhibition. His administrative powers found scope from 1893-95, when he was president of the Central Council of the British Medical Association, and in 1899, on the occasion of the Portsmouth meeting of the association, Dr. Cousins was elected president.

SIR JAMES DIGGES LA TOUCHE, whose death at Dublin is announced, belonged to an old Anglo-French family, and was a member of the Indian Civil Service for forty years before his retirement in 1907. At the close of a successful official career he was appointed to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and to a seat on the Council of India. He was a typical civilian of the older school, hard-working and devoted to the interests of the Indian people, but lacking that breadth of view which would have qualified him to meet the new political conditions which arose after his retirement from the Service. Though he knew the people intimately, he possessed little imagination or literary skill, and he published nothing except a gazetteer of the Province of Ajmir. His memory will be preserved by his educational policy—the improvement of the teachers' position, the provision of improved school buildings and boarding-houses, and, finally, by his foundation of the Medical College at Lucknow, which was the crown of his official labours.

THE death is announced of PROF. GUSTAV MANN at Tampico, U.S.A., on July 18, at the age of fifty-seven years. Prof. Mann's vivid personality will be best remembered by Oxford physiology students of twenty years ago, and his translation to the chair of physiology at the Tulane University, New Orleans, was a grievous loss to the progress of histology in this country. As a master of the technique of his subject he was probably unsurpassed, and his breadth of view and lively imagination gave his instruction an unusual interest and significance, carried on by his pupil and successor at Oxford, S. G. Scott, until the latter's premature death. Too volatile to be largely productive in the ordinary way, his "Physiological Histology" is often the most thumbed book in laboratories where section cutting is taken seriously, and many grateful pupils will lament a real master whose determination to get himself disliked led him into so many troublous adventures.

WE much regret to announce the death, in his eighty-third year, of PROF. JULIUS VON HANN, for many years director of the Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Vienna.