

Obituary.

DR. F. W. PASSMORE.

WE regret to announce the death of DR. FRANCIS WILLIAM PASSMORE at his home at Bexley Heath on Saturday, October 29. Dr. Passmore began his training with Dr. B. H. Paul. In those days London was probably the largest market in the world for cinchona bark, and Dr. Paul acquired no small reputation as a "quinologist." After five years in Dr. Paul's laboratory Passmore proceeded to Wurzburg, where he worked under Emil Fischer about the time the latter began his classical investigation of the sugars. He published three papers with Fischer on the formation of acrose from formaldehyde, the phenylhydrazides of acids derived from sugars, and on the synthesis of higher homologues of *d*-mannose.

On his return to London Passmore became an assistant at the Pharmaceutical Society's Research Laboratory, then recently started under Prof. W. R. Dunstan as director, with whom he contributed a paper to the Transactions of the Chemical Society on the formation and properties of aconine, the basic hydrolytic product of the highly toxic alkaloid aconitine. If one may judge from the four papers in which Passmore had collaborated up to this time, he would have made a valuable addition to the small band of workers who have devoted attention to the chemistry of natural products in this country..

The death of his father made it necessary for him to take up more lucrative work, and he joined the late Mr. H. Helbing as a consultant and analyst. His success as an expert witness led to his being constantly employed in patent cases involving chemical questions of all kinds, but he retained his interest in drugs, and from time to time published notes, arising out of his professional work, on such subjects as wool-fat, eucalyptus oils, salicylic acid, chloroform, coal-tar disinfectants, and potassium bromide. These notes were for the most part concerned with standards of purity and methods of analysis, and were written in collaboration with his partner.

Passmore was also interested in the manufacture of saccharin, and devoted some attention to processes for the production of synthetic camphor, but it is as a consultant that his frank and engaging personality will be chiefly missed.

DR. OSCAR MONTELIUS.

By the death of Dr. Oscar Montelius at Stockholm on November 4 the study of the prehistory of Europe has suffered a grievous loss.

Gustaf Oscar Augustin Montelius was born in Stockholm in 1843. He was attracted to the study of archæology at an early age. His first paper on the subject was published as long ago as 1869. An accomplished linguist—he seemed equally at home in most European languages—

and the master of a ready pen, throughout a period of more than fifty years he was a constant contributor to the scientific journals both of his own and of other European countries, as well as the author of numerous books, several of which have been translated into English. Notwithstanding the volume of his published works, it is safe to say that not one word of his writings is not deserving of careful consideration. Of these his "Primitive Civilisation in Italy" is the most considerable, and probably will also be the most enduring. Montelius was well known personally in this country, and had contributed papers to *Archæologia* and the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and in 1904, at the Cambridge meeting of the British Association, which he attended as a distinguished guest, he read a paper before Section H on "The Origin of the Lotus Ornament." His greatest and most lasting service to archæology lay, beyond question, in his investigation of the Bronze-age culture upon lines which enabled him to formulate a systematic scheme of chronology for that period.

Montelius was for many years a director of the State Museum of Sweden. He was a fellow of the Swedish Academy, and an honorary fellow of many European societies. In 1913 thirty-seven archæologists of European reputation, representing ten different countries, united to do him honour in a handsome memorial volume presented to him on his seventieth birthday.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. E. WINDSOR RICHARDS, on Saturday, November 12, at ninety years of age. Mr. Richards started his career at the age of twenty-three as an assistant engineer with his brother at Tredegar Iron Works, thus beginning a connection with the iron and steel industry which he maintained throughout his life. While still a young man, he was appointed chief engineer at the Ebbw Vale Steel Works, where he designed and constructed a special blast furnace for the production from Somerset spathic ore of spiegeleisen, which until that time had been imported from Germany. In 1876 Mr. Richards became general manager, and later chairman and director, of Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan and Co., of Middlesbrough, where, in co-operation with Thomas, the basic method of steel manufacture was successfully launched. In recognition of his services to the iron and steel industry, Mr. Richards was awarded in 1884 the Bessemer gold medal of the Iron and Steel Institute, of which ten years later he became president. He was also a past-president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Cleveland Institution of Engineers.

THE death is announced of PROF. SHERIDAN DELÉPINE, professor of public health and bacterio-