

the excavations of Mr. Theodore M. Davies with some remarkable finds. No striking results were obtained until November 5 last, when Mr. Carter discovered the tomb of King Tutankhamen—a discovery unique in the annals of archaeology. The interest of the objects taken from the tomb, remarkable both in their number and character, grew from day to day, and culminated on February 17, when the opening of the inner chamber revealed the shrines in which it is expected that the body of the king will be found. Work was then closed for the season.

It adds a note of tragedy to Lord Carnarvon's death that he will not be present when the opening of the innermost shrine crowns his labours, but his name will always be honoured as one who added a vast store to our knowledge of the civilisation of Ancient Egypt.

DR. C. I. FORSYTH MAJOR, F.R.S.

DR. CHARLES IMMANUEL FORSYTH MAJOR, who died at Munich on March 25, aged seventy-nine, was born in Glasgow, of Scottish parents, but removed when an infant to Constantinople, and lived for most of his life abroad. He was educated in Switzerland, Germany, and Italy. Graduated Doctor of Medicine in Basle in 1868, and began his career as a medical practitioner in Florence.

Dr. Major was, however, always interested in natural history, and his association with Rüttimeyer in Basle led him to become an enthusiastic student of fossil mammals. While occupied with his professional duties in Florence, he took every opportunity of collecting and examining the mammalian remains found in the superficial deposits in the valley of the Arno, and from 1872 onwards he published in Italy a series of small papers on these remains, describing and discussing them in a more exhaustive manner than had previously been attempted. He summarised his results in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London in 1884, pointing out that the later Pliocene mammals were all distinguishable from those of the early Pleistocene when fossils were studied in detail. At the same time he published valuable memoirs on the dentition of rodents from the Bohnerz of Switzerland and South Germany (*Palæontographica*, xxii., 1873), and on the dentition of the early true horses (*Abhandl. Schweiz. Paläont. Ges.*, 1877-80).

About 1886 Dr. Major abandoned his medical practice, and began to devote himself entirely to scientific research. With the help and encouragement of his Swiss friend, M. W. Barbey, he made a thorough exploration of the Pliocene accumulation of mammalian bones in the island of Samos, and brought back a great collection, of which part was presented by M. Barbey to the Collège Gaillard at Lausanne, and the other part was purchased by the British Museum. In 1889 Dr. Major made another important collection of mammalian remains from a Pliocene torrent-deposit at Olivola in the Carrara mountains in Italy, and this was also purchased by the British Museum. Dr. Major followed his collections to the British Museum, and was temporarily employed there in cataloguing the fossil mammals until 1909. While thus occupied he published a valuable series of papers in London. He also arranged to prepare a Catalogue of Fossil Rodentia for the

British Museum, and a large monograph of the Samos Mammalia, which unfortunately were never produced.

In 1893 Dr. Major contributed his important memoir on the skull of a giant lemur, *Megaladapis*, from a cavern in Madagascar, to the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, and the novelty of this discovery led him to plan an exploration of the caverns and marshes of Madagascar. With the aid of a government grant from the Royal Society, he visited Madagascar in 1894-95, and brought back an important collection of fossil mammals and birds, which is also now in the British Museum. On these fossils he wrote several descriptive papers.

In his later years, however, Dr. Major found increasing difficulty and diffidence in preparing his results for publication, although his researches were pursued with accustomed diligence. Much of his valuable work on rodents and on the relationship between the fossil *Samotherium*, which he discovered in Samos, and the existing okapi of the Congo Forest, is thus unfortunately lost to science. Dr. Major was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1908, and about the same time was awarded a small Civil List pension. He then returned to the Mediterranean region which had interested him for so many years, and spent most of the remainder of his life in Corsica. He still continued to collect and study mammalian remains, chiefly from the caverns and rock-fissures of Corsica, but he now ceased to do more than make manuscript notes.

A. S. W.

MR. E. W. VREDENBURG.

GEOLOGY has lost a cultured worker by the death of Ernest Watson Vredenburg, who passed away on March 12, at the age of fifty-three. His death was probably hastened by the constant and now painfully verified foreboding that he might never be able to finish the great task which he had undertaken of revising the Tertiary palæontology of the Indian region. We have had occasion at times to notice some of the numerous instalments which he has published during the past few years in the Records of the Geological Survey of India; they and other papers now in the press were intended to prepare the way for a comprehensive monograph which he hoped would justify his reason for differing from his colleagues on some questions of stratigraphical correlation; but the burden was too great for that hyper-sensitive, artistic, and retiring nature which tended to keep him apart from his colleagues, who nevertheless appreciated his deep learning, unrelenting industry, and tenacious adherence to independent views.

Mr. Vredenburg, who was half French in race and wholly so in upbringing, graduated at Paris in Science and Letters before entering the Royal College of Science and School of Mines, where he took a double associate-ship, in geology and mining, before joining the Geological Survey of India in 1895. He spent the first part of his official work on the relatively uninteresting unfossiliferous rocks of Central India, and did not get an opportunity of discovering his main bent till his transfer to Baluchistan, the geological features of which he revised and summarised in 1910. There and in the adjoining regions of Sind he became deeply interested in the stratigraphy and palæontology of the