

when he settled in business in Belfast in 1868, he brought the healthy and tolerant atmosphere of his upbringing to his new surroundings in the north. For a very long period of years Wright's daylight hours had to be at the disposal of firms for which he worked, and only on occasional holidays could he make excursions into the country. He was a warm supporter of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society and of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. During his years in Cork he had made a fine collection of Carboniferous fossils, which is now in the British Museum; in Belfast he devoted himself mainly to the study of foraminifera, fossil and living, and was especially successful in extracting forms preserved in hollow flints or in friable chalk from the Cretaceous beds of northern Ireland. He was able to recognise forms derived from these beds in detrital deposits of the district, and he remained convinced that the occurrence of Pleistocene foraminifera in the glacial deposits studied by him necessarily implied an incursion of the sea over northern Ireland.

Wright joined, as a recognised expert, dredging expeditions in the Irish Channel and off the western coast, the latter being organised by the Royal Irish Academy. His judgment became sought by naturalists throughout our islands and abroad, and many of his correspondents, while appreciating the fulness of his knowledge, must have remained ignorant of the life of hard work and devotion in the intervals of which his researches were carried on. Those who became personally acquainted with him in his home could not fail to recognise his truly lovable personality.

Wright was elected a fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1866, and in 1896 received the honour of the award of the proceeds of the Barlow-Jameson fund. He contributed numerous papers to scientific journals, and his unique collection of foraminifera, mounted by his own hand, is now among the treasures of the National Museum in Dublin.

An excellent account of Wright's life and work, to which we are indebted for some of the details given above, appeared in the *Belfast Telegraph* for April 7.

#### MR. SIDNEY H. WELLS.

MR. SIDNEY H. WELLS, who died at St. Leonards on March 28, was formerly Director-General of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education in Egypt. Born in 1865, he was educated for the engineering profession at Birkbeck and King's College, London, and in 1885 he won a Whitworth Scholarship. Four years later he founded the Institution of Junior Engineers, of which he was chairman for five sessions. In 1889 he became a master at Dulwich College on the science and engineering side. Two years later he removed to the University of Leeds as senior assistant in the engineering department, and in 1893 he returned to London at the age of twenty-eight to become the first principal of the Battersea Polytechnic.

In 1906 Mr. Wells was requested by Lord Cromer to visit Egypt and report on technical education, certain branches of which had been previously entirely neglected. As a result of this visit, Mr. Wells was offered in 1907 the newly created post of Director-General of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, a position which he held until his retirement

eighteen months ago owing to continued ill-health. His fifteen years' work in Egypt was that of a pioneer, and the agricultural, commercial, and industrial schools which are to-day flourishing in all the larger towns of that country and in many of the provinces owe their existence entirely to Mr. Wells's untiring energy and far-seeing wisdom.

For his War work as Director of Civilian Employment for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in 1917-19 Mr. Wells was made C.B.E.; he was twice mentioned in despatches, and held the second-class orders of the Medjidieh and the Nile. He was vice-chairman of the Egyptian Commission of Commerce and Industry, 1916-18.

Mr. Wells was an Assoc. M.I.C.E. and an original member of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of London, of which he was afterwards secretary, and also secretary of the Board of Studies. He was formerly a member of council of the Headmasters' Association, a member of council and for four years honorary secretary of the Association of Technical Institutions, and a member of the Examinations Board of the City and Guilds Institute, of the Teachers' Registration Council, and of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education. He was the author of various text-books.

#### GENERAL E. A. LENFANT.

BY the death of General E. A. Lenfant at the age of fifty-eight, France has lost one of the most noteworthy explorers of her African empire. He began his work in Africa in 1898, when he studied the course of the Senegal, and later the floods of the Niger. In 1901-2 he twice traversed the middle and lower Niger, passing the rapids successfully and collecting much useful information on the regime of the river and the geography of its valley. In 1903 Lenfant was again sent to Africa to investigate the possibility of water transport from the coast to Lake Chad. On this occasion he explored the Logone, a tributary of the Shari; the Kabi, a tributary of the Benue; and Lake Tuburi, which lies between the two. Between 1906 and 1908 Lenfant's explorations were in the western part of the Ubanghi-Shari country, around the head waters of the Shari. He showed that the Bara-Shari is a branch of the Shari, and that the Pende, which is the same as the Logone, provides the best route from the Sanaga to the Shari, and so to Lake Chad. Lenfant was the author of several works on Africa, including "Le Niger" (1903), "La grande route du Tchad" (1905), and "La découverte des grandes sources du centre de l'Afrique" (1909).

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. J. Cox, lately professor of physics in McGill University, Montreal, on May 13, aged seventy-two.

Dr. G. H. Hume, for many years lecturer on physiology in the University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on May 8, aged seventy-seven.

Prof. C. Niven, F.R.S., lately professor of natural philosophy in the University of Aberdeen, on May 11, at seventy-eight years of age.

Colonel G. F. Pearson, formerly Inspector-General of Forests in India, on April 25, aged ninety-six.

Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Robertson, according to the *Times*, director of hygiene and pathology at Army Headquarters, Simla, and in 1912 sanitary commissioner with the Government of India, on May 14.