Obituary.

SIR JETHRO TEALL, F.R.S.

BY the death on July 2 of Jethro Justinian Harris Teall, one of the most noted and revered of living geologists has been lost to science. Accomplished in all branches of geology, he gained a world-wide reputation more especially as a pioneer in petrography, at a time when the study of igneous and metamorphic rocks was as yet in its infancy. Born on January 5, 1849, he was the son of Jethro Teall by his marriage with Mary, daughter of Justinian Hathaway, of Gloucestershire. On leaving school he went to St. John's College, Cambridge, and by so doing contributed to the development of the noted school of geology which was then coming into existence under Bonney's auspices. He was bracketed second in the first class of the Natural Science Tripos in 1872, and in 1874 was awarded the Sedgwick Prize for his researches on the Lower Greensand. He held a fellowship at his college from 1875 until 1879.

For a few years after taking his degree, Teall was engaged in delivering University Extension lectures, but his tastes lay rather in the direction of original research, more especially as regards the composition and origin of igneous rocks and the phenomena of metamorphism. In such studies British geologists had been outpaced by continental workers, but the balance was restored by the publication of Teall's "British Petrography," a book which was not only far in advance of its time, but was also a classic, and still remains a standard work of reference on the subject with which it deals. In the preface he alludes briefly to circumstances which threatened a tragic termination. "The work was commenced in February 1866, and completed in March 1888. One hundred and sixty-four pages and twenty plates were issued to subscribers in monthly parts. The issue then ceased, owing to the failure of the publishers, and I was compelled to take the work into my own hands in order to finish it." A discussion which took place between Teall and some of his friends in the Geological Survey, when the fate of the book lay in doubt, remains fresh in my memory. It was distasteful to press the author to dip so deeply into his own pocket as would be necessary to complete the publication, yet it was impossible to contemplate the abandoning of a work of such outstanding importance. In the end he faced the risk of loss, and I have reason to believe was eventually recouped by the sales what he had expended on publication. He had intended to include detailed petrographic descriptions of the sedimentary rocks and crystalline schists, but though some plates were included, he was unable to find space for the letterpress. Both kinds of rocks have since received much attention, but it is a matter for regret that they were not dealt with by the same master hand.

At this time it had become apparent that the whole-time services of a petrographer were required for the Geological Survey. Assistance in the identification of igneous rocks in the field required by the surveyors, and the technical descriptions of such rocks in the Memoirs, called for the services of an expert petrographer. At the same time, the care of the petrographical laboratory and the custody of the specimens collected in illustration of the field work, pointed to the necessity of that petrographer possessing businesslike habits. Sir Archibald Geikie, Director-General at the time, selected Teall for the post, as now standing in the first rank of British petrographers. The appointment was made on June 20, 1888, to the lasting benefit of the service. Though the nature of his duties necessitated attendance at the office for a large part of the year, the petrographer was able himself to take a small share in the surveying. Thus Teall was responsible for the mapping of the northern part of Raasay, an area occupied by schists and intrusive igneous rocks.

In 1901, on the retirement of Sir Archibald Geikie, Teall was appointed Director of the Geological Survey and of the Museum of Practical Geology. The institution had recently come under the consideration of a strong committee, the appointment of which had been strongly pressed for by the staff. The committee included representatives of various Government Departments and of scientific and mining interests. The recommendations made were sound and practical, and the task of giving them effect could not have been entrusted to more capable hands than those of the new Director. While the public service benefited, the time available for his own research work was unfortunately curtailed. But for his heavy administrative duties, we may suppose that "British Petrography" might have been completed on the lines originally contemplated. In 1914 Teall retired, leaving the institution as regards its work, organisation, and remuneration in a stronger position than it had ever before held. In 1901–5 he served as a member of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, representing geological interests with Mr. Lapworth as his colleague, until the latter resigned on account of ill health. He received a somewhat belated honour of knighthood in 1916.

Teall received honorary degrees from the Universities of Oxford, Dublin, and St. Andrews. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1890 and twice served on the Council, once as vice-president. In 1893 he was president of Section C (Geology) of the British Association, and in 1900–2 was president of the Geological Society of London. From that Society he received the Bigsby Medal in 1889, and its highest honour, the Wollaston Medal, in 1905. In 1907 he was awarded the Delesse Prize by the Paris Academy of Sciences. In presenting the Wollaston Medal, the president (Dr. Marr) addressed Teall in words which all who knew him will endorse. "You have ever placed your great store of knowledge at the disposal of other workers. How much work was thus due to you will never be known . . . but was it known, I can safely aver that it would be found to have promoted researches concerning the mineral structures of the Earth, to so great an extent as to render you doubly deserving of this medal."

A. STRAHAN.

SIR HARRY JAMES VEITCH.

FOR several decades past there has been no such outstanding figure in the horticultural world as Sir Harry Veitch, whose death on July 6, in his eighty-fifth year, we regret to record. His chief ability was his highly developed business faculty, for he could