

intimate connexion that ceased only with the War. Thirdly, the rich collections of fossils made by the expedition inevitably involved him more and more in palæontology. Thus in 1903 he became professor extraordinarius, and in 1906 was appointed full professor of palæontology and holder of that chair in the University of Vienna. His academic progress was fitly rounded off by his election as Dean of the philosophical faculty for 1919-20, and as Rector of the University for 1922-23.

Thus, for all his geographical interests and tectonic surveys, it is mainly as a palæontologist that we know and honour Diener. Englishmen are most familiar with the twelve magnificent monographs on Himalayan fossils which he contributed to *Palæontologica Indica* from 1895 to 1915. His most distinctive work in this line was on the Triassic Cephalopoda, where, on the death of Mojsisovics in 1907, he succeeded to the prime authority. The material for his Triassic studies came not only from the neighbouring Alps and the Himalayas, but also from Madagascar, Timor, Tonkin, Siberia, and Japan. His masterly summary, "Die marinen Reiche des Trias Periode" (1915), embodied the results of this work and of his extensive travels to many of the famous Trias exposures of the world. Would that he had given us an equally good summary of his knowledge of the Triassic cephalopods! From this, in his Catalogue (1915), he intentionally refrained, holding that the state of ammonite classification did not permit of it.

As palæontologist Diener was no mere describer, but interested himself in such subjects as the mode of life and distribution of the ammonites, the phenomena of convergence, and more generally in all those relations of fossil faunas to the rocks in which they occur that make up the division of palæontology now known as biostratigraphy. Indeed his "Grundzüge der Biostratigraphie," published in 1925, forms a conspectus of the subject no less admirable for clarity and sanity of treatment than for the wide learning on which it is based. The preparation of this work occupied him during the later years of public distress and of personal suffering from the internal disease to which he has at last succumbed.

Diener had a quiet but attractive personality, and his clear elocution and interesting subject matter made his lectures peculiarly inspiring. He was a member of the Vienna Academy and the recipient of many honours from other learned bodies. In 1913 he was made a corresponding member of the British Association. The Geological Society of London elected him foreign correspondent in 1912 and foreign member in 1926, an honour which he valued highly as a recognition of his long-continued work for the geology of the British Empire.

F. A. B.

MR. E. R. WAITE.

THE death is announced of Edgar Ravenswood Waite at Hobart, Tasmania, during the nineteenth meeting of the Australasian Association for the

Advancement of Science. Mr. Waite was born at Leeds in 1866, and at an early age took a keen interest in natural science; he was eventually appointed curator of the Leeds Philosophical Society, and was joint author with the late W. D. Roebuck of a work on "The Vertebrate Fauna of Yorkshire." He took an active part in the organisation of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and at one time was joint-editor of its well-known organ the *Naturalist*. In 1892 Mr. Waite was appointed zoologist to the Australian Museum, and shortly afterwards accepted the appointment of Curator to the Canterbury Museum, New Zealand. Afterwards he accepted the directorship of the Government Museum at Adelaide, South Australia. Two years ago he returned to Europe, and after seeing the various museums on the continent and America, he visited his native place at Leeds, and was entertained there by many of his former colleagues.

Mr. Waite specialised in the study of mammalia and fishes, and took several expeditions to the Antarctic, where to-day a mountain bears his name. He described the fishes taken on the Shackleton and Mawson Expeditions, and is the author of the standard work dealing with the snakes of Australia. During the War he did good work by visiting various territories in the Pacific. He also collected extensively in the New Ireland and New Britain areas, and his Museum is considerably richer as a result of his work.

Mr. Waite's early experience as editor of the *Naturalist* and in other ways resulted in his being a prolific writer, and more than a hundred monographs and papers are to his credit. T. S.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. José Rodríguez Carracido, for many years Rector of the University of Madrid, who worked chiefly on the action of alkaloids upon organisms and was the author of several text-books on biochemistry, aged seventy-two years.

Mr. J. H. Durrant, who was associated for many years with the late Lord Walsingham's collection of Microlepidoptera at Merton Hall, Norfolk, and afterwards at the British Museum (Natural History), on Jan. 20, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. Harry N. Gardiner, emeritus professor of philosophy at Smith College and president in 1907 of the American Philosophical Association, on Dec. 29, aged seventy-two years.

Prof. R. W. Genese, professor of mathematics in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, from 1879 until 1919, on Jan. 21, aged seventy-nine years.

Major-General G. W. Goethals, chief engineer for the construction of the Panama Canal and first civil governor of the Canal Zone, on Jan. 21, aged sixty-nine years.

Mr. M. Longridge, C.B.E., president in 1917 of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, on Jan. 18, aged eighty years.

Count Meredyth de Miremont, author of well-known star charts and of "Practical Methods in Modern Navigation," on Jan. 21.

Dr. George Muirhead, author of "Birds of Berwickshire" and other works on Scottish natural history, on Jan. 29, aged eighty-two years.

Mr. P. D. Warren, C.M.G., formerly Surveyor-General of Ceylon, on Jan. 28, aged seventy-six years.