

Mr. Spender, who had the assistance of Mr. E. C. Marchant until Jan. 9, has been busily engaged on his large-scale map of the island, a slow and laborious task. Owing to the humidity causing distortion of the drawing paper, he has to plot all points by co-ordination. He has taken several traverses with the tacheometer between triangulation points, the fringe of the island being almost completely mapped, and hopes to fill in the central detail by plane-tableing later. He is running level traverses of a precise order across the flat.

A preliminary bore with a hand plant has been made in the centre of the sand cay, 13 feet of casing being sent down, and although a level

below that of the 'beach rock' was reached, nothing but sand was encountered.

The tide gauge has been put up after great labour, entailing the erection, with the assistance of a member of the lighthouse staff, of three 30-foot mangrove poles in the form of a tripod. This is giving excellent and most interesting results, and it is now possible to refer any point on the island to mean sea-level, while sounding operations are also possible.

At the time of writing, the work of the Expedition is being greatly extended by the hiring of a powerful Townsville launch, the *Magneta*, for plankton, hydrographic, and dredging cruises as far north as Cook's passage north of Cooktown.

Obituary.

COL. E. LESTER JONES.

THE untimely death of Col. E. Lester Jones, on April 9, meant a loss to the scientific world of a friend and ally whom it will not be easy to replace. Col. Jones had been for fourteen years the directing head of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and in that capacity had used his talent and energy to promote scientific work and investigation. Much of the increased activity and interest in hydrography, geodesy, seismology, and terrestrial magnetism may be traced directly to his influence.

Just as it is not possible to gauge the ultimate value of any single scientific discovery, just so it is out of the question to attempt an immediate appraisal of the importance of any one man's life work in the interests of science. A hint of the monument Col. Jones builded for himself may be found in the splendid organisation the destinies of which he guided for fourteen years. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, pioneer Government scientific bureau, is to-day functioning efficiently; it is well organised, well equipped, and making rapid forward strides. For this, the credit must inevitably gravitate toward the man who led, ever encouraged, and efficiently aided its scientific staff.

Col. Jones was born at East Orange, New Jersey, on April 14, 1876. In addition to extended study abroad, he held an A.B. degree and an honorary A.M. degree conferred by Princeton University, and was commissioned a hydrographic and geodetic engineer. In 1913 he was appointed deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Fisheries, holding that position until being appointed the directing head of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey by President Wilson in 1915.

In addition to his administrative work with this latter bureau, he was the American member of the International Boundary Commission appointed to fix the boundary between the United States, Alaska, and Canada. He had also been a member of several important Government and scientific missions. One of the last of these was his appointment as a delegate to the twelfth International Geographical Congress held at Cambridge last year.

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DR. CHARLES BEAVIS.

THE sudden death of Dr. Charles Beavis on April 17 at his residence, Naishcombe House, Wick, Bristol, came as a great surprise to those who had recently seen him, apparently in the best of health and full of life and vigour. He was born at Hampstead on May 3, 1869, and educated at Atherstone Grammar School. At the age of seventeen he went to Coblenz, then to Bonn, where he read chemistry, physics, and mineralogy under Kekulé, Anschutz, Klinger, Bendes, Clausius, and Hertz. He afterwards proceeded to Würzburg, working under Emil Fischer, and in 1892 took the degree of Ph.D. (*Magnam Laudem*). He returned to London and worked for seven years with Dr. Quirin Wirtz, during which time he took his F.I.C. in 1897. In 1899 he went to Wick to start a fine colour department in the Golden Valley Ochre and Oxide Co., becoming manager in 1902, taking over the business in 1904. Although records of published original work are not available since his graduation, Dr. Beavis had publicly identified himself with chemistry and the intricate problems of modern colour manufacture, and for many years took keen interest in the Colour Makers' Association of the United Kingdom, of which he was the first and only chairman.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. John W. Harshberger, professor of botany in the University of Pennsylvania and president in 1926 of the American Ecological Society, aged sixty years.

Dr. F. C. Madden, C.M.G., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Egyptian University, Cairo, an authority on bilharziosis and schistosomiasis, on April 27, aged fifty-six years.

Dr. August von Schmidt, formerly director of the meteorological-geophysical section of the Württemberg State Statistical Bureau at Stuttgart, on Mar. 21, aged eighty-nine years.

Sir George Syme, K.B.E., president of the College of Surgeons of Australasia and chairman of the Royal Commission on Health, Commonwealth of Australia, aged sixty-nine years.

Dr. Ludwig Wittmack, honorary professor of botany in the University of Berlin and author of the section on the Bromeliaceæ in Engler and Prantl's "Pflanzenfamilien", on Feb. 2, aged eighty-nine years.