

I had not been three months in India before a conundrum in one of the circulars was given me to deal with, and several most interesting months were passed in endeavouring to submit a satisfactory solution.

The "Dictionary" was not intended as a text-book or handy handbook, but it was a first definite departure in the study of the economic products and served as the basis for the great development of this study which has since come about. Watt retired in 1906, but the post of Reporter was not finally abolished until both the Pusa and Dehra Dun Institutes were firmly established. Watt's ledger files, which he had maintained over a long period of years, were then made over to these latter. He had also edited an invaluable publication known as the *Agricultural Ledger* from 1892 to 1903, which was continued by his successors. He was also in charge of the industrial section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta.

It was during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty, to some extent due to the fact that the "Dictionary" was out of print, that Watt was asked to prepare, with the guidance of a small expert committee in London, an abridged edition of the "Dictionary", to be brought up-to-date and to be issued in one volume. This work, under the title of "The Commercial Products of India", was published in 1908.

Watt was president of the Pharmacological Section of the Indian Medical Congress in 1894. In 1901 he was appointed to the Indigenous Drugs Committee, and as secretary drafted the report. In 1903 he organised an Indian Art Exhibition in connexion with Lord Curzon's Delhi Durbar.

After his retirement from India, Watt made a special study of cacao cultivation, visiting Portuguese West Africa for the purpose in 1912, and patented machinery for cacao manufacture. He served for five years as lecturer in the botany of Indian trees at the University of Edinburgh. He was made C.I.E. in 1886 and was knighted in 1903; he was LL.D. of both his old Universities, Aberdeen and Glasgow; a fellow of the Linnean Society; and had received distinctions from a number of foreign universities and scientific societies.

In addition to the "Dictionary", Watt published "Pests and Blights of the Tea Plant"; "Rhia and China Grass"; "Lac and Lac Industries of India"; and an important work on the "Wild and Cultivated Cotton Plants of the World".

Watt had settled at Lockerbie in 1910 and identified himself closely with local affairs, serving on the Dumfriesshire County Council and Education Authority. His death on April 2 will be much felt by many, and not least by the band of men who were identified, one way or other, with his valuable Indian work.

E. P. STEBBING.

PROF. I. P. BORODIN.

PROF. IVAN PARTHENIEVITCH BORODIN, whose death at Moscow was recently announced, was a botanist and forester of international reputation. Born at Novgorod in 1847, he was educated at the University of St. Petersburg, where he became pro-

fessor of botany in 1887, a position he held for three years. He then became professor at the St. Petersburg Forest Institute, where he continued for thirty years. This was formerly the largest and probably the best equipped forestry school in Europe, and many foreign students were attracted to it by the prestige of Borodin and the scientific staff. In 1897 he founded the biological freshwater station which bears his name and of which he was director.

Borodin's first researches were on the effect of light on the higher cryptogams, and he also worked on respiration. An early paper, however, on botanical progress during 1877-79, indicated the catholicity of his interests shown later by his publications on mycology, anatomy, reproduction, and biochemistry. He also wrote standard books on botany and agriculture.

The study of botany in Russia owes much to Borodin's zeal and versatility, and this is shown by the numerous honours conferred upon him. He was of strong physique and enormous energy, attributes which served him in good stead in the arduous botanical travels he undertook in the remoter parts of Siberia and the Caucasus. His interest in travel continued to the end, and he served as president of the standing commission for the development and exploitation of tropical countries. He held several other positions to which the term honorary is usually applied, but Borodin devoted himself to his duties with intense earnestness and clear thinking enthusiasm. He was a man with many friends in his own and in other countries.

PROF. HERMAN VON IHERING.

PROF. HERMAN VON IHERING, who died at Büdingen in Oberhessen on Feb. 24 in his eightieth year, is well known from his contributions to the biology and palæontology of South America, where he was for many years Director of the Museum at São Paulo, Brazil.

Von Ihering was especially interested in zoogeography and in order to test its problems by various groups of animals, specialised on land and freshwater mollusca and on the social insects, especially the wasps. He had also a good knowledge of the South American mammals, recent and fossil. He also wrote on the Antarctic faunas, the German Selachians, and the fossil and living mollusca of South America. He was a man of original and independent views and was often engaged in controversy, on one occasion with Ray Lankester. He was a pioneer in the application of parasites to zoogeography and it is often called "the von Ihering method".

Von Ihering wrote many memoirs on the anatomy and classification of the land mollusca and on the biological relations of South America. His last general work was his "Die Geschichte der Atlantischen Ozeans" (June 1927), wherein he summarised and restated his former conclusions, and advocated fundamental changes in both Atlantic and Pacific geography up to the middle of the Kainozoic era.