however, he was apt at times to disregard the opinions of some of his botanical colleagues, his theories and conclusions have not perhaps received the recognition which they merit.

PROF. HUGO DE BÖCKH.

THE recent death at the age of fifty-seven years of Hugo de Böckh will occasion deep grief amongst those who in many lands enjoyed his gifts of friendship, admired his independent judgment and vigorous personality, and feel the loss to science. He was the son of a distinguished Hungarian geologist, and received part of his training under Karl von Zittel at Munich. In 1902, at the age of twenty-eight, he was appointed professor of mineralogy at the Hungarian School of Mines at Selmeczbanya, and there turned his attention to economic geology and to the tectonic problems which he realised would prove of practical value in mining. He wrote a text-book on geology in Hungarian, and amongst other investigations studied the applications of the Eötvös balance to subterranean prospecting. During the War he was appointed Under-Secretary for Mines in Hungary.

In 1923 de Böckh received the appointment which gave him his great opportunity—he became the geological adviser to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and had a great influence in its development by his superintendence of its geological work. He was in charge of its surveys in Persia and Mesopotamia, Albania, Colombia, and Venezuela, and of the international survey of the oil-fields of Iraq. In this work his indomitable, restless energy, originality and insight, and his inspiring enthusiasm made him a most efficient leader in the pioneer field work.

Prof. de Böckh was asked to succeed Baron Nopcsa in 1929 as director of the Hungarian Geological Institute, and returned to Buda-Pest in 1930. He was given a seat in the upper house of the Hungarian Parliament. It was hoped that as soon as he had reorganised the Hungarian Geological Survey he would have time to publish the general conclusions of his world-wide study of oil-fields and their structures. He had published relatively little, partly owing to lack of time and to much of his work being confidential. His most important contribution was that, in conjunction with Dr. G. M. Lees and Mr. F. D. Richardson, to the British Association symposium on the structure of Asia (1929), in which he included some striking results of a study of the Magdalena rift-valley in Colombia.

Prof. de Böckh gave early this year a series of lectures under the auspices of the University of London, in which he summarised his general conclusions on current tectonic problems, and showed his independence of judgment by emphasising the need for caution with Eötvös balance observations and deductions from isostasy. It is to be hoped that those lectures will have been left in a form available for publication, as they state the matured judgments of a geologist of unusual insight and of unique experience and qualifications.

MR. J. H. LEONARD.

BY the death of John Henry Leonard, which took place at a Kensington nursing home on Dec. 4, the Trustees of the British Museum have lost the services of one who was the first to hold the office of guide-lecturer at the Natural History Museum. The appointment was, at the beginning, regarded purely as an experiment, and was the result of the steady campaign conducted by the late Lord Sudeley to make the great national museums more attractive and more interesting to the general public.

That the experiment was such an undoubted success at the Natural History Museum was due to Mr. Leonard's qualities, which rendered him so eminently fitted to discharge the duties of the post. To hold the attention of a group of people haphazardly brought together for a tour of part of the Museum, and with very varying capacity for understanding and appreciating what they were shown and were told, is no easy task, especially round exhibition cases in galleries of difficult acoustical properties. Mr. Leonard possessed the fundamental quality of a good carrying voice, and at the same time was successful in appraising the mentality of the average listener; he was always patient of questioners and took great pains to enlighten the genuine inquirer. With school children he was particularly successful, partly because he was naturally fond of young people; and there are many, of tender years when they first visited the Museum, who will ever bear him in kindly remembrance.

Born on April 19, 1864, Mr. Leonard was educated at Kensington Grammar School and at King's College and University College, London. He obtained the B.Sc. degree, his subjects being zoology, botany, and geology, in the last of which he gained honours. He taught science for a time, and was associated with the science sections at some of the exhibitions held at Earl's Court and Shepherd's Bush. He was appointed guide-lecturer at the Natural History Museum on May 20, 1912. Without having written anything, he has done no mean service in awakening an interest in natural history among those who, to the average annual number of 12,500, have attended his tours. He was also a lay reader for whose services in the pulpit there was always a good demand.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Melvil Dewey, formerly director of the New York State Library, originator of the decimal system of book classification, on Dec. 26, aged eighty years.

Mr. Beeby Thompson, formerly principal of the Northampton Technical School, who was a well-known consulting water engineer, on Dec. 12, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. Hermann Thoms, formerly director of the Pharmaceutical Institute of the University of Berlin and president of the German Pharmaceutical Society, aged seventy-two years.