

as rarely happened, the weight of evidence was against his original opinion, he did not hesitate to say so.

Scott's influence was by no means confined within the limits of palaeobotanical research: his "Introduction to Structural Botany", an elementary textbook in two volumes, Part I of which is now in its eleventh edition, is a model study of representative examples of flowerless and flowering plants. Mr. F. T. Brooks of Cambridge is associated with Dr. Scott as joint author of the last edition of both parts.

In 1921 Scott was the Wollaston medalist of the Geological Society of London; in 1906 he received a Royal medal and in 1926 the Royal Society awarded him the Darwin medal. In 1921 he was awarded the Linnean medal of the Linnean Society. He was president of the Linnean Society in 1908-12 and of the Royal Microscopical Society in 1904-6; foreign secretary (1912-16) of the Royal Society; twice president of Section K (1896 and 1921) and a general secretary (1900-3) of the British Association. He was an honorary LL.D. of the University of Aberdeen and D.Sc. of the University of Manchester, also honorary member or corresponding member of many foreign academies and societies.

Though neither by inclination nor temperament attracted to administrative work, Scott conscientiously discharged such duties as he felt called upon to undertake: he was essentially a student, a dreamer with a 'passion of the past'; a man with strong international sympathy and a keen sense of justice. On occasion impulsive, quickly roused by unreason; a man of lovable personality to those who knew him well. Few men of his age made a stronger appeal to the affection and loyalty of colleagues. Scott will be gratefully remembered by many younger men and women whom he treated as equals. It is fortunate that he was able to devote the best years of his life to research without the hampering necessity of spending the greater part of his energy in teaching.

Scott was happy in the companionship of a wife whose personal qualities were complementary to his own: from her he had much help in his work both directly and indirectly. He leaves four daughters: his younger son died at school (1914) and the elder son was killed in France (1917) when serving with the Royal Engineers. By friends in all ranks of life, Scott will be remembered for many unrecorded acts of kindness: as a botanist he has left a worthy memorial in his work and in the services he rendered to exact knowledge.

A. C. SEWARD.

DR. WILLIAM PAGE

WITH Dr. William Page, who died at Middleton in Sussex on February 3, at seventy-two years of age, has passed a singularly gracious personality, whose loss is regretted by a wide circle of friends. A far wider public will mourn,

and continue to mourn, the editor of the most extensive and successful attempt ever initiated in Great Britain to produce a comprehensive series of county histories, a task to which Page devoted the last thirty-two years of his life.

At the outset, indeed, a very different career had seemed to lie before Page. After leaving Westminster School, he became a civil engineer, and for a time (1880-84) was assistant executive engineer to the Government of Queensland. But he already had other ambitions. At the age of twenty-five he abandoned engineering, and with his brother-in-law, W. J. Hardy, established a firm of record agents and legal antiquaries which achieved considerable distinction, and was engaged in a number of peerage, coronation and other claims. During this period Hardy and Page jointly published the "Feet of Fines for London and Middlesex" (1892), and Page was incidentally able to develop that extensive and peculiar knowledge of local and customary history which was to serve him in good stead later. In 1902 the Hardy-Page partnership was dissolved, and Page joined Mr. H. A. Doubleday as joint-editor of the "Victoria County History", which had been established two or three years previously; whilst two years later, on the retirement of Mr. Doubleday, Page became sole general editor.

The task which Page thereby undertook was immense alike in time and in space, including as it did the history, archæology, geology, botany and zoology of the English counties. Nor was it merely in breadth of knowledge and academic sympathy that the work demanded exceptional qualities in the editor. The human problem—the problem of co-ordinating the work of innumerable specialists and local students, of harmonising their divergent views, abilities and eccentricities—drew incessantly upon Page's unflinching patience, courtesy and astuteness. The contributions which he collected from these miscellaneous sources necessarily vary in value, but it is rarely that they fall below that high minimum of scholarship which he set himself to maintain. On the documentary side, the editor's wide first-hand knowledge was a sufficient guarantee. On the architectural side, Page's association with Sir Charles Peers resulted in the evolution of methods and standards which are likely to control all future research of the kind. Indeed, these methods have received an enduring sanction in their adoption by the Historical Monuments Commission (England), which is in many ways the child of the "Victoria County History".

Nor did the editor's human problem end with his contributors. Financial difficulties were never far from Page's mind, and more than once the "History" seemed to be doomed to founder on this rock. But Page's untiring courage did not fail him, and on more than one occasion he was able to secure at the last moment the patronage which his work demanded. In 1910 the generosity of the late Lord Hambledon carried the "History" forward a further stage, and in recent years, although

financial support was increasingly difficult to obtain, individual guarantees facilitated the publication of volumes relating to Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Rutland and Kent. In 1932 Page offered to the University of London, subject to certain conditions, the copyright and unused material—a considerable and important collection—of the "History", and the offer was gratefully accepted by the Court of the University in November of that year. The Pilgrim Trust afterwards made a grant to the University of £500 a year for three years to assist in carrying on the work, and a University Committee associated with the Institute of Historical Research was established for the purpose. It is indeed difficult to imagine that a task so well and truly begun, and already carried so far, should be allowed to lapse, and it is scarcely necessary to express the hope that, in accepting the legacy of Page's great work, the University has accepted the responsibility of completing it.

Page never courted any sort of recognition for his devoted work, but he was long a distinguished fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, of which he was a vice-president from 1916 until 1920, and in 1932 he received the degree of hon. D.Litt. (Oxon.).

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Baron Alphonse Berget, professor of physical oceanography in the Institut Océanographique, Paris, who published many works on physics and meteorology, on December 29, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. F. W. Hardwick, emeritus professor of mining in the University of Sheffield, a past president of the Midland Institute of Mining, Civil and Mechanical Engineers, on January 24, aged seventy-three years.

Prof. T. E. Peet, reader in Egyptology in the University of Oxford since 1933, formerly Brunner professor of Egyptology in the University of Liverpool, on February 22, aged fifty-two years.

Sir Vincent Raven, K.B.E., president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1925, who published several works on electric locomotives and traction, on February 14, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. Howard C. Warren, professor of psychology in Princeton University since 1914 and editor of the *Psychological Review*, on January 4, aged sixty-six years.

News and Views

Fundamental Cosmological Problems

PROF. M. N. SAHA, in his presidential address to the Indian Science Congress at Bombay delivered on January 2, dealt chiefly with fundamental cosmological problems. He believes that recent discoveries in nuclear physics will provide the key to the problems of stellar structure. In the absence of decisive evidence, he inclines to the view of Kothari and others that the neutron should be regarded as a dipole consisting of a proton and an electron, and he believes that this structure has far-reaching astrophysical consequences. The problem of the ultimate fate of radiation has been radically transformed by the discovery of the positive electron, and the idea that final stagnation of the universe is inevitable is vitiated by the fact that it ignores the possibilities of conversion of radiation into matter and the combination of small into large energy quanta. Prof. Saha considers that the experimental fact of "electro-fission of quantum", that is, the conversion of γ -ray quanta of sufficient energy into a pair of electrons, positive and negative, inside the nucleus, may prove to be the realisation, possibly on the cosmic scale, of the first possibility. With regard to the second, he sees no theoretical reason why, in the radiation of space (presumably continuous from the hardest rays to visible light), hard cosmic rays may not be the result of fusion of softer quanta. He expressed the view that continuous evolution is confined to portions of the universe such as the earth and solar system, the cosmic process as a whole being cyclic.

Scientific Organisation in India

THE latter part of Prof. Saha's address was devoted to problems of scientific organisation. The present world is a single economic and cultural unit, and this fact should direct political and economic action. Practical problems can be solved only by the application of scientific principles, and a new educational scheme should be devised by a world's congress of foremost thinkers, with the object of training the coming generation to a proper appreciation of the beauty and powers of science. The lack of scientific organisation and preliminary research is particularly obvious in Indian public works, with serious consequences to the vitality of the population and resulting in great waste of money. Prof. Saha supported the formation of an Indian Academy of Science, organised somewhat on the lines of the Royal Society, which would co-ordinate Indian scientific work, and act generally for the promotion of scientific research and its utilisation in national and international affairs. He adduced evidence of the need of such a body, quoting in support of his view the statement of Sir F. Spring on river problems in India, that "more money has been wasted, for want of just such knowledge as a River Commission might provide, than would have sufficed to pay the entire cost of it many times over"

Dinosaur Skeletons in Brussels

WE regret to learn that the remarkable skeletons of the Wealden Dinosaur *Iguanodon*, which form the most striking feature of the Royal Museum of