

remarkable teacher, he was the author of numerous experimental and clinical publications, of which the most important were on the occurrence of tetany after operations for goitre (1890), diseases of the thyroid (1903), and the modern treatment of fractures (1905). He was also co-editor of the *Archiv für klinische Chirurgie*, which dedicated to him its 140th volume on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his professorship in 1926, and of the *Mitteilungen aus der Grenzgebiete der Medizin und Chirurgie*. During the War of 1914-18, in which he was appointed consultant to the Austro-Hungarian Navy, his services were much in request especially as regards abdominal wounds and amputations.

Eiselsberg had many friends in Great Britain, where he was elected Hon. F.R.C.S. Edin. in 1905, Hon. F.R.C.S. England in 1913, where he delivered the Hunterian Lecture in 1932, and honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1928. His autobiography, under the title of "Lebensweg eines Chirurgen", appeared a few months before his death.

J. D. ROLLESTON.

Prof. R. I. Meyer

PROF. RICHARD I. MEYER, whose death, at the age of seventy-four years, occurred on June 18, was one of the best known inorganic chemists in Germany. Born in Berlin on August 24, 1865, he built up a reputation early in life by his researches on rare earths, thallium and scandium; his discovery of scandium in tungsten and tin slags enabled him to produce this element—then considered one of the rarest—in sufficient quantity for its thorough chemical and physical investigation. From 1897 onwards, for twenty-five years, Meyer was associated with Prof. Arthur Rosenheim in Berlin in the conduct of a private scientific chemical laboratory in which, under the guidance of these two men, university students carried out valuable research work in inorganic chemistry—a branch of chemistry frequently neglected in the official university laboratories in Germany, which were almost without exception directed by organic chemists.

On his retirement from this laboratory in 1922, Prof. Meyer was entrusted by the German Chemical Society with the organization of the eighth edition of "Gmelin's Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry" which, in this new form, is as outstanding in its field as is the famous "Beilstein" handbook in organic chemistry. The achievement of this high standard is due to the comprehensive editorial programme laid down by Meyer, to his discriminating choice of co-workers, and to his careful supervision of every detail in the publication of the first twenty or so volumes. Even after withdrawing from the editorship, he helped by writing the manuscript of the introductory volume on rare earths; his name, however, was omitted from the title page when the volume appeared in print—a fate which quite frequently befell 'non-Aryan' authors in Germany after 1933.

Not only in his editorial activities were Prof. Meyer's organizing abilities of high value, but also in his work as one of the members of the International

Committee on Atomic Weights—for the reports of which he was largely responsible—and as a member of the International Committee on Inorganic Nomenclature. Everybody who came in touch with him was delighted to find not only a chemist of wide erudition and outlook but also a highly cultivated man of great personal charm who was as interested in questions of art, especially music, as in science. It was a matter of intense pleasure and pride to him to see this part of his inheritance come to full development in his highly gifted only son, who became a successful orchestral conductor.

No obituary article on the work of this excellent chemist appeared in any German journal; no official representative of the German Chemical Society attended the funeral of the man who had so devotedly worked for many years in the society's publishing offices. Nevertheless, his name will be gratefully remembered inside and outside Germany as the first editor-in-chief of the now "Gmelin" by present and future generations of chemists who will consult this monumental work.

Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing

SCIENCE, not only in the Soviet Union, but also the world over, has suffered a great loss in the death on October 24 of Prof. F. Y. Loewinson-Lessing, member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and director of the Petrographical Institute in Moscow.

Franz Youlievich Loewinson-Lessing was born in St. Petersburg on March 9 (February 25, Old Style), 1861. After graduating in 1883 at the University of St. Petersburg, he worked for some years as an assistant at that University. In 1892 he was appointed professor of geology, petrology and mineralogy at the University of Dorpat (Youriev) and in 1902 was the first holder of the chair of geology, petrology and mineralogy in the newly founded St. Petersburg Polytechnic Institute. In 1925 he was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and director of the Geological Museum. He was the founder and first director of the Petrographical Institute. He was an honorary or foreign member of a number of scientific societies at home and abroad, including the Geological Society of London.

Prof. Loewinson-Lessing was the leading petrologist in Russia and was well known internationally. The bulk of his work was published in Russian, but he also contributed quite a number of papers to English, American, French and German periodicals. Although his main interest was in the petrology of igneous rocks, he published a number of papers dealing with mineralogy, geology and ore-deposits. His books include "Tables for the Determination of Rock-forming Minerals" (English translation, 1893), "Petrographical Tables" (1905, 1911), "Text-book of Crystallography" (1911, 1923), "Introduction to Geology" (1923), "Progress of Petrology in Russia" (1923), "Petrology" (1925), "History of Petrology" (1936, English translation forthcoming). Altogether he was responsible for more than two hundred papers and books.