

edition of his greatest work, the “*Lehrbuch der Chemischen und Physicalischen Geologie*,” (2 vols., Bonn, 1847–1854), which was finished in 1854, in which year an English translation (so much augmented as in reality to be a second edition) was published by the Cavendish Society, under the personal superintendence of the author, which work, for the first time, supplied a notable deficiency in our scientific literature. In 1866 an entirely re-written new German edition of this work, in three volumes, was completed; and up to the last days of the worthy Professor’s life, he was occupied in completing a supplement to this edition, which will bring it up to date, and is expected to appear immediately.

Space does not admit of our even giving the titles of the numerous scientific papers and minor communications, or alluding to the popular lectures and letters on scientific subjects, which appeared in print between the years 1842 and 1849. The posthumous fame of Professor Bischof will rest, however, mainly upon his most important work on Chemical and Physical Geology, which embodies a vast amount of data for future generalization. Even those men of science who may not be inclined to adopt the late Professor’s views in their entirety, cannot but admire the wonderful perseverance and sagacity which he brought to bear upon his chosen field of investigation, and admit that he must be regarded as the founder of the study of chemical geology, a branch of science which every day is asserting its claims to more distinct recognition.

Professor Bischof had, what is rarely accorded to scientific men, the happiness of seeing his labours universally appreciated during his lifetime. Prussia gave him the decoration of the Red Eagle, whilst from Russia he received the Order of St. Ann; in England he was awarded the gold Wollaston medal by the Geological Society, and in 1861 was elected a honorary member of that body, whilst most of the principal scientific institutions of Europe enrolled him amongst their members. Up to the very last Professor Bischof preserved his mental faculties quite unimpaired by either age or infirmity; and whilst, in his public capacity, he was esteemed by all, it must also be added, that in private life he was one of the most amiable of men, as all who knew him can testify. D. F.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—With deep regret we announce the death of the Rev. Joseph Bancroft Reade, F.R.S., F.R.A.S., President of the Royal Microscopical Society. He was a Scholar of Caius College, Cambridge; and obtained his B.A. degree in 1825, when he took high honours in the Mathematical Tripos. He was curate of Rigworth, Leicestershire, till 1829, and was successively curate and afternoon lecturer at the parish church, Halifax, till 1832, and incumbent of Harrow Weald till 1834. In 1839 he was presented by the Royal Astronomical Society to the vicarage of Stone, near Aylesbury, and in 1859 to the

rectory of Ellesborough. Archbishop Longley gave him the rectory of Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, in 1863, and he held it until his death, in his 70th year, early on Monday morning, December 12, 1870. His talents and discoveries have justly entitled him to a place amongst the eminent men of the day, and the loss of him will be generally felt by men of science. His kindness of heart and geniality of disposition endeared him to all who came in contact with him, and those who had the privilege of his friendship will sorrow most of all that they shall see his handsome, benevolent face no more.—*Land and Water*, Dec. 17th, 1870.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE STUDENT'S ELEMENTS OF GEOLOGY.—BY SIR CHARLES LYELL, BART., F.R.S. *London*, 1871, JOHN MURRAY. 8vo. pp. 624, with more than 600 illustrations on wood.—This is an abridged edition of Sir Charles Lyell's much larger volume, "Elements of Geology," and is an endeavour, on the author's part, to meet the demand for a more elementary text-book than his former publications furnish. As we only received it just before going to press, we will not attempt to notice it here, but only to call attention to the fact that it is now to be had. We hope to give it a proper notice next month.

CHAIR OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—Some time since Sir Roderick Murchison offered the munificent sum of £6,000 for the endowment of a Chair of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Edinburgh, on the understanding that the annual proceeds of this sum would be supplemented by a grant from Parliament. We are happy to state that Government has consented to this proposal, and has agreed to recommend an annual grant of £200. We believe the University is largely indebted for this desirable result to the earnest co-operation of its member, Dr. Lyon Playfair. It is also an evidence that the Government are not so indifferent, as they have been supposed to be, to the claims of scientific education.—*Nature*, Dec. 22, 1870.

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY in the University of Edinburgh, the duties of which were so long and ably discharged by Professor Allman, has been given to Professor Wyville Thomson, F.R.S., until lately Professor of Natural History at Queen's College, Belfast. This of course creates a vacancy, the applicants for which are, we understand, numerous, but we have not as yet heard of any one being selected.

HEALTH OF SIR RODERICK MURCHISON, BART., F.R.S., etc.—We are glad to be able to announce that a very considerable improvement has taken place in Sir Roderick Murchison's health. The Director-General is progressing most favourably towards recovery.

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.—Intending Exhibitors who have not yet intimated their wish to submit objects for selection, are reminded that they must do so *at once*, on a form provided for the purpose, which may be obtained on application to the Secretary. The offices are at Upper Kensington-gore, London, W., Lieut.-Col. Scott, R.E., *Sec.*