

will have done the cause of Devonian geology in this country an inestimable service.

JOHN W. EVANS.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

*April 14, 1921.*

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## OBITUARY.

### **Arthur John Charles Molyneux, F.G.S., F.R.G.S.**

MR. A. J. C. MOLYNEUX died suddenly of heart failure at Bulawayo on 28th December in his 55th year. Molyneux came to Rhodesia in the early days, being a member of the Victoria Column under Major Alan Wilson that occupied Matabeleland in 1893. After the settlement of the country he devoted himself to prospecting and mining, making many long expeditions into the outlying districts in which he discovered some of the coalfields of the Territory. In particular he made several traverses across the then little known mid-Zambesi valley from the high veld of South Rhodesia to that of Northern Rhodesia or in the opposite direction, mapping the country, taking precise geological notes, and carefully labelling his specimens. His maps of many of these tracts are still the most reliable and intelligible, since they were made by a man with an eye for country.

He was always intensely keen on the purely scientific side of his work. His spirit may be gauged by the fact that on one trip, when an expected supply of water failed him and it became necessary to make forced marches to save life, he threw away most of his kit, but kept some fossils he had found. These were the ones that first proved the Karroo age of the Coal-measures in the mid-Zambesi basin. He was the first to give an adequate explanation of the wonderful gorge at the Victoria Falls.

Molyneux was earnest in his desire for the diffusion of natural knowledge. He called the inaugural meeting and was first secretary of the Rhodesia Scientific Association. He was also a member of the committee and one of the first trustees of the Rhodesia Museum, established at Bulawayo in 1901. He joined the Geological Survey of Southern Rhodesia in 1917, wishing to place his knowledge of the outlying districts at the disposal of the country, and hoping thereby to work out his early observations. Circumstances, however, demanded his services in other districts, on the geology of which he published a paper and two reports.

For some years his health had not been very good, largely owing to the bad conditions experienced on his earlier travels. After joining the Geological Survey an improvement took place, but at the beginning of 1920 his heart began to give trouble, necessitating residence at sea-level for two periods. He did not long survive his second return to high altitudes.