

the south of Scotland, indicates the hand of the master. For many years he gave devoted service to the geological mapping of Scotland, and so long as men take interest in Scottish geology his memory will endure.

J. S. F.

DR. W. E. HOYLE.

THE death of William Evans Hoyle, D.Sc. (Oxon.), on February 7, at Porthcawl, has removed from this world one who, to the deep regret of his many friends, had for the last year or two been compelled by ill-health to withdraw entirely from that active participation in their pursuits to which for half a century they had been accustomed.

Born at Manchester, in 1855, Hoyle was by circumstances inclined to the profession of his father, William Jennings Hoyle, an engineer connected with both Whitworth's and Armstrong's. But his education at Owens College and afterwards at Oxford, which he entered as an exhibitioner in natural science at Exeter College, being elected later a junior student of Christ Church, turned his thoughts to the mechanism of the animal body, and this attraction was intensified by the influence of the great teacher, Rolleston. Thus it was that, after taking a first class in natural science, and qualifying at St. Bartholomew's Hospital for M.R.C.S., Hoyle was glad to become demonstrator in anatomy at Owens College and, not long after, to migrate to Edinburgh as a naturalist on the editorial staff of the *Challenger* Expedition. This division of interests bore at first similarly divided fruit: the year 1883 saw papers by him on primary epithelioma of the lung and on a new species of Octopus, while 1886 produced his translation of Leuckart's "Parasites of Man" as well as his report on the Cephalopoda collected by the *Challenger*. After this it was the cephalopods that conquered; on that fascinating group Hoyle produced a series of reports and papers, including reports on the cephalopods collected by Herdman at Ceylon (1904), by Stanley Gardiner at the Maldives and Laccadives (1905), by the National Antarctic Expedition (1907), and the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (1912). Valuable and thorough though they were, these works did not introduce any startling changes in our conception of the group; apart from the systematic aspect, the chief study to which they led was that of phosphorescence in the cephalopods and other animals of the deep sea. Hoyle's knowledge of recent cephalopods was summarised in his presidential address to Section D of the British Association at Leicester (1907).

Meanwhile his systematic work and his training in the *Challenger* Office had qualified Hoyle to act as curator of a large collection. A chance arose for transferring him to the Zoological Department of the British Museum, but failed owing to the opposition of the staff, which did not like to see promotion checked by the appointment of senior men from outside. There was, I know well, no objection on personal grounds. The result, whether gain or loss to the British Museum, was a gain to Hoyle's own development and to the museum world. What London rejected, Manchester seized: Hoyle was made curator of the Manchester Museum, at Owens College, and, under the guidance of Sir William Boyd Dawkins, entered on his career as a

great museum curator and administrator. He studied his new profession, as all museum-men should do, from every side. Methods of exhibition, of conservation, of storage and arrangement, of registration, and of card-indexing, all benefited from his active mind. He even trespassed on the field of the librarian, and was, I believe, the first in England to apply the Dewey decimal system, which he used in his catalogues of the libraries at the museum and the Conchological Society. All the results of his museum experience were communicated by him to the Museums Association, of which he was an original member, becoming its president in 1906. At the yearly gatherings of that body, as in all meetings of zoologists, his sagacity and his humour were alike welcome.

When, in 1909, a National Museum was to be established for Wales, the governors took the unprecedentedly wise step of first getting a director. Hoyle was their choice, a fact which he jestingly ascribed less to his own merits than to his name "Evans." On his own suggestion, he was at once sent abroad to complete his already extensive knowledge of the great museums. The plans were drawn to his specification and emended after criticism by himself and an independent expert. To the wisdom of the governors in trusting to Hoyle's initiative and direction is due the high position of that Museum to-day. We all regretted that he should have had to retire before receiving public acknowledgment of his great services.

F. A. BATHER.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. D. S. Capper, from 1902 until 1921 professor of engineering at King's College, London, on February 12, aged sixty-one years.

Prof. W. O. Crosby, emeritus professor of geology in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, known for his work on ore deposits and on the geology of the Boston Basin, Alaska, and the Rocky Mountains, on December 31, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. F. Y. Edgeworth, fellow of All Souls College and emeritus professor of political economy in the University of Oxford, president in 1912-14 of the Royal Statistical Society, and joint editor for many years of the *Economic Journal*, the organ of the Royal Economic Society, on February 13, aged eighty-one years.

Dr. Ernst Ehlers, professor of zoology since 1874 in the University of Göttingen, on December 31, aged ninety years.

Dr. Sigmund Exner, emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Vienna, and a member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences, on February 6, aged eighty years.

Prof. J. F. Gemmill, F.R.S., professor of natural history, University College, Dundee (University of St. Andrews), and first president of the parent society of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, on February 10.

Sir John Burchmore Harrison, Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture, in British Guiana, the author of numerous papers on the chemistry of tropical products, on February 8, aged sixty-nine years.

Sir George Holmes, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., honorary member and for more than twenty years secretary of the Institution of Naval Architects, on February 13, aged seventy-seven years.