

and the world lost one who, to adapt his own words, exhibited "un temperamento passionale che si affigge in una idea grande e la persegue con ricerche e scoperte, o grandi o piccole secondo le sue forze, ma sempre avendo dinanzi la spiegazione generale e profonda della natura". F. A. B.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS, K.C.M.G.

THE death of Sir Daniel Morris, in his eighty-ninth year, brings to a close a long life devoted to the public service; but it is his work for the Empire, as Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture in the West Indies, that will be kept especially in grateful remembrance.

Except for the twelve years (1886-1898), when he was assistant director at Kew, under Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, Morris's work and interests had lain overseas in the Colonies, and while he held the assistant-directorship he was seconded to undertake a special mission to the West Indies (1890-91), in connexion with the development of the fibre, sugar and banana industries in particular; again, in 1895, he visited the Bahamas and the following year he was appointed expert adviser to the commissioners on agricultural and botanical questions, when the West Indian Royal Commission was sent out during Mr. Chamberlain's fruitful time at the Colonial Office. His valuable services were very fittingly recognised by his appointment as Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture in 1898. During the ten years he occupied this important post, he enlisted the services of a staff of experts to teach and advise in the Leeward and Windward Islands, and was able to bring about co-operation between the various islands and develop their agricultural industries on sound lines.

Among other valuable undertakings Morris's personal introduction of Sea Island cotton to the Islands was a signal achievement; to him also is due the improvement of the sugar cane by hybridisation, and the extension of the cultivation of limes and *Cacao* and other tropical products. The inter-colonial agricultural conferences which he established have done much good work, mainly in bringing together the agricultural officers and planters in the Islands and so helping to co-ordinate and stimulate their efforts.

Morris received the honour of the C.M.G., in 1893 "in recognition of Scientific and Economic Services rendered to Her Majesty's Colonies", and in 1903 he was advanced to K.C.M.G.

Before Morris went to Kew in 1886, he spent two years in Ceylon (1877-79), working on the coffee disease as assistant to Dr. Thwaites, and from there he was promoted to be director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, a post he held for seven years. While holding this post he visited British Honduras, in 1882, and St. Helena in 1883. His report on the economic possibilities of St. Helena is a valuable document which, had it been followed up in practice, would have been of great benefit to the island.

While at Kew, Morris was treasurer of the Royal Horticultural Society from 1888 until 1891, and took an active part in the affairs of the Society at a critical time. He was enrolled a Victoria medallist of the Society and for many years was one of the vice-presidents.

Since his retirement Sir Daniel Morris was, until his health began to fail, an active member of the governing bodies of the Imperial Institutes of Entomology and Mycology, and of the John Innes Horticultural Institution. In Bournemouth, where he settled on his return home from the West Indies, he quickly entered into the scientific life of the community, and the present flourishing condition of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society is largely due to his keen and stimulating interest.

Morris's published papers deal mainly with botanical or agricultural matters of economic importance and are valuable works of reference. Very possibly much of the good work he was able to carry out was due to his skill as a speaker, for he was a lecturer as well as a writer of unusual ability. Lady Morris, who was his able ally for more than fifty-two years, died in January of last year.

DR. JOHN R. FREEMAN

FROM *Earthquake Notes* for December 1932, issued by the Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America, we learn of the death of Dr. John R. Freeman on October 6, 1932.

Dr. Freeman was consulting engineer to several important engineering concerns in the United States. He was president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1904 and of the Society of Civil Engineers in 1921. He did much work in connexion with water engineering and fire protection. Dr. Freeman studied earthquakes from the engineer's point of view. His principal works are his detailed study of the Melfi (Italy) earthquake of July 23, 1930, and his great book on "Earthquake Damage and Earthquake Insurance", published last year, in which he made valuable contributions to the problem of earthquake insurance in the United States.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. T. Alexander, formerly professor of engineering at Trinity College, Dublin, on February 17, aged eighty-five years.

Lord Lovat, K.T., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., formerly chairman of the Forestry Commission, who has done much work in connexion with the development of forestry throughout the British Empire, on February 18, aged sixty-one years.

Dr. A. D. Risteen, director of technical research in the Travelers Insurance Co., known for his work on industrial technology and safety, on December 30, aged sixty-six years.

Dr. John Watts, of the old Chemistry Department of the University of Oxford, author of memoirs on the industrial uses of tannins, on February 9, aged eighty-nine years.