

For thirty years Kitchin held a leading place in the esteem of all his fellow workers, and his thoroughness and critical ability gained the confidence not only of his colleagues but also of all stratigraphical palaeontologists both in Britain and abroad.

Dr. Kitchin was born in Whitehaven in 1870 and educated at St. Bees School and at St. John's College, Cambridge. After graduating at Cambridge he studied at Munich for several years. For a short period he worked unofficially at the British Museum, and in 1898 he joined the Geological Survey as an assistant to E. T. Newton. He became palaeontologist in 1905. He was a vice-president of the Palaeontographical Society and a fellow of the Royal Society. He took the degree of Sc.D. at Cambridge in 1923. For many years he had served on the council of the Geological Society, which in 1934 awarded to him the Lyell Medal, an honour which he did not live to receive.

Dr. Kitchin had a very wide circle of friends who were attracted to him by his obvious sincerity and great willingness to help all earnest scientific workers. Of a retiring disposition, he was passionately fond of music and was himself no mean executant. He was twice married and leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter. On January 23, at Golder's Green, a large assembly of colleagues and scientific friends paid their last respects to a man of science, who was not only personally beloved, but had also taken an important part in the scientific activities of British palaeontologists for nearly forty years.

J. S. F.

#### MR. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD, D.C.L.

MR. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD, who died in his eighty-ninth year on February 9, was prominent as a promoter of the serious study of geography for more than fifty years. As an Eton boy he made several ascents in the Alps and his love of mountains grew with his growth. He was recognised as one of the greatest mountaineers of the Alpine Club; but his attitude was that of an explorer and student of mountains rather than that of a sportsman, keen on records of first ascents. He broke new ground in the Alps, the Caucasus and the Himalayas, and in his sixtieth year he started from Mombasa with the intention of making an ascent of Mt. Ruwenzori, and he reached 12,000 ft. before turning. He wrote many books of much charm; the two largest, "The Exploration of the Central Caucasus" (1896) and "Round Kangechenjunga" (1903), are permanent works of great value, masterpieces of the literature of travel and illustrated with superb photographs. His biography of the great Swiss mountaineer and man of science, H. B. de Saussure (1920), was recognised as a classic.

Mr. Freshfield was admitted a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1869 by Sir Roderick Murchison, and became a member of the council in 1878. Except for the ten years following 1894, when he withdrew from the affairs of the

Society as a protest against certain retrograde tendencies, he served throughout his life as honorary secretary, vice-president, president (during the difficult War years 1914-17) and finally in the high office of trustee. He was always a force for progress and in continuous opposition to the tyranny of old tradition. His reserved nature and fine taste led him to shun publicity; but when the occasion demanded it, as in the fight for the admission of ladies as fellows in 1893, he took a prominent part and conducted controversy with cogent argument and caustic wit.

Freshfield made no pretence of being a scientific man; but he preached and practised the doctrine of acute observation and accurate description. He rendered noble service to the science of geography by his encouragement of research and of higher education. In 1884, recognising the futility of the Society's scheme of encouraging geographical education by offering prizes to the public schools, he initiated an inquiry into the state of geographical teaching on the Continent and secured the appointment of the late Sir John Keltie for that purpose. The resulting report started the modern revival in British geography. Mr. Freshfield continued to urge that the best way to improve school teaching of the subject was to secure the recognition of the high cultural value of geography by the universities. Starting with his own University of Oxford, he secured the appointment of Sir Halford Mackinder as reader in geography in 1887 when there was no chair of geography in any British university, and he lived to see professors and honours schools of geography in practically every one as the direct result of his initiative.

For thirteen years Mr. Freshfield acted as president of the Geographical Association, the activity of which in its special province of education he watched over with an interest only exceeded by his devotion to the work of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Alpine Club.

Freshfield's life was a fine illustration of the tradition of service which has led so many men of wealth and culture in England to toil for great ideals as strenuously as most men have to work for their living.

HUGH ROBERT MILL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, an original member of the Society for the Protection of the Fauna of the Empire, on February 24, aged seventy-nine years.

Dr. F. C. Purser, president of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and professor of medicine in the University of Dublin, on February 28.

Mr. William Barlow, F.R.S., known for his early work on the relation of crystal structure to chemical composition, on February 28, aged eighty-eight years.

Prof. S. F. Oldenburg, for twenty-five years permanent secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, on February 28, aged seventy years.