OBITUARIES

Prof. W. C. Brøgger, For.Mem.R.S.

DR. W. C. BRØGGER, professor emeritus of mineralogy and geology of the University of Oslo, died on February 17, at the age of eighty-eight. Born at Oslo (Kristiania) in 1851, Brøgger started his scientific career as a zoologist, but soon, through the inspiring influence of Th. Kjerulf, professor of mineralogy and geology, entered upon the study of the two subjects in which he was to accomplish so much. Before he was thirty years old, he received a call to Stockholm as professor, having already to his credit a large number of important papers on mineralogy, general geology and palæontology. A particularly valuable publication of his early years is his treatise on "Die silurischen Etagen 2 und 3 im Kristianiagebeit, etc." (1882), where besides describing the stratigraphy and fossils of the Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician, he gave a preliminary, yet very comprehensive, survey of the igneous rocks of the district, a field of research which was to become the central one of his life. A most important geological paper from the Stockholm period is "Ueber die Bildungsgeschichte des Kristianiafjords", where the block-fault structure, with breccia and other accompanying phenomena, was demonstrated with exceptional clearness.

After the death of Kjerulf in 1890, Brøgger returned to Oslo as professor, and in the same year published what is probably his most famous paper, on the minerals of the syenite-pegmatite dykes of the Oslo area, especially of the Langesundsfjord in the southern part. This monograph of about 700 pages, coupled with his previous works, brought Brøgger the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society of London and other high rewards. It deals not only with a wonderfully rich variety of minerals, but also with wide petrological and geological problems, and has made the district classical, attracting to it great numbers of mineralogists and geologists from many countries, who often enjoyed the personal guidance in the field of Brøgger himself.

In the course of his long life, Brøgger continued to publish papers, especially on the alkaline rocks of the Oslo area, which furnished him with magnificent examples of rock differentiation and with material for the original description of very numerous and characteristic rock-types (lardalite, larvikite, nordmarkite, etc.). He showed the close chemical and mineralogical relation of the vast variety of rocks involved, occurring as plutonic bodies, as sills and dykes, and as lavas, with, in the main, a change from more basic to more acid types. Together with his assistant, and later on successor, J. Schetelig, he published a series of valuable geological maps of the Oslo area. Other of Brøgger's petrological studies dealt with Archæan rock-suites from southern Norway, and with a most interesting series of igneous carbonate-bearing rocks in the Fen district, just outside the Oslo area. The paper on the Fen rocks, reaching several hundred pages in length, was published in his seventieth year.

It is a most imposing proof of the universality of Brøgger as a man of science that we also owe to him the largest and, we may add, the most important work, that has been published on the Quaternary geology of Norway, a book (published in 1900–1) dealing with the unconsolidated deposits occurring around the Oslo Fjord, with far-reaching conclusions on the geographical and climatic history of the district; and further, that he has given us the first full treatment (1905) of the relation of the Stone Age settlements to the varying height of the shore line in the same district—an achievement of fundamental importance to Norwegian archæologists.

Brøgger has not only in his personal research work been one of the most prominent men of science whom Norway has ever produced (his scientific honours could be counted in scores, including, among others, membership of the Royal Society and the Paris Academy of Sciences), but in addition, through his administrative abilities, he was able to promote Norwegian scientific life in general more than any other man. Of particular importance was his successful work in establishing a great number of funds for scientific research, some of them very large, together with his activities on behalf of the University at Oslo, which resulted in a number of new appointments, new buildings (including the natural history museums), etc. Brøgger was also, as a matter of course, for decades the central and leading personality in the Academy of Sciences at Oslo, the activities of which owed much to him in different ways.

Brøgger was a man with wide interests outside the realm of science. It is perhaps worth mentioning just now that so long ago as 1899 he was one of a committee of six outstanding representatives of European intellectual life who in St. Petersburg requested an audience with the Czar of Russia, in order to lay before him an address, signed by more than a thousand prominent men, in protest against new and oppressive regulations towards Finland. They were not granted an audience, but their effort gained for them the lifelong gratitude of the Finnish people.

OLAF HOLTEDAHL.

Prof. E. Mapother

PROF. EDWARD MAPOTHER, who died on March 20 at the age of fifty-eight, had been medical superintendent of the Maudsley Hospital since its opening. Under his wise and energetic control, it became the chief post-graduate centre of psychiatry in Great Britain. Mapother was selected to fill the newly created chair of clinical psychiatry in the University of London, tenable at the Maudsley, in 1936. This was a personal appointment, which he continued to hold after he had resigned from his post as superintendent of the Hospital last December; it was an