

blocks having been taken from the nearest escarpment. The whole structure belongs to the type of monument known as cromlech or dolmen, and the irregular form and small dimensions are probably to be explained by the fact that the chief consideration was the feat of raising the enormous blocks, the utility of the chamber beneath being of secondary importance.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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PROFESSOR LOEWINSON-LESSING.<sup>1</sup>

SIR,—It was arranged in January, 1914, that a German translation of Professor Loewinson-Lessing's important memoir on the volcanoes of the central Caucasus should be published in *Tschermaks Mitteilungen*. Owing to the strike of the printers in Vienna the publication of the memoir was delayed till the summer, and before its issue war was declared. It has subsequently been published, and Professor Loewinson-Lessing is anxious that it should be understood by his English friends and fellow-geologists that the publication of this memoir in Austria was arranged *before the War* and that he has since then had no share in its production.

As Professor Loewinson-Lessing has asked me to explain why his memoir has appeared in an Alien journal during the course of the War, I shall be much obliged if you would issue this explanation.

J. W. GREGORY.

GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW.

*January 17, 1917.*

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OBITUARY.

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ERNEST SWAIN.

BORN JANUARY 15, 1843.

DIED DECEMBER 20, 1916.

ALTHOUGH he never contributed to any scientific publication, Ernest Swain was well known to a past generation of geologists as a keen student of the science and a constant attendant at the meetings of the Geological Society and Geologists' Association. Of the latter he remained a member till the last.

He was born at Wood Lane, Shepherd's Bush, and educated privately and at King's College, of which he became an Associate. His life was passed in business in the West End, but all his spare time was devoted to scientific studies, and his museum and library were open to all friends and students, many of whom owed their start on a scientific career to his influence and aid. He was an active member of the quondam West London Scientific Association and the succeeding Western Microscopical Club. He devoted much time to the compilation of commonplace books, of which he kept some 140 going on the subjects that interested him. Unhappily he latterly met with bad times and retired to Chorley Wood, where he died at the close of last year.

<sup>1</sup> Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the Polytechnic Institute, Sosnovka, Petrograd, Russia.