

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY,

K.C.B., LL.D., D.Sc., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.C.S., ETC.

BORN OCTOBER 2, 1852.

DIED JULY 23, 1916.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of one of England's most distinguished scientific men, Sir William Ramsay, who passed away on Sunday, July 23, at his home, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, in his 64th year. He was a nephew of the late Sir Andrew Ramsay, F.R.S., formerly Director of the Geological Survey (1814-91), and son of William Ramsay, C.E. He was born in Glasgow in 1852, and in its Academy and University he received his principal education. Thence he went to Tübingen to study chemistry, returning to Glasgow University as Tutorial Assistant in Chemistry (1874-80). He was next Professor of Chemistry and afterwards Principal of Bristol University (1881-7), and finally Professor of Chemistry at University College, London, from 1887 to 1913. His principal researches embraced "The Molecular Surface Energy of Liquids", and (in conjunction with Lord Rayleigh) "Argon, a new Constituent of the Atmosphere"; Helium, a constituent of certain minerals; also Neon, Krypton, and Xenon (three new atmospheric gases). For his chemical discoveries he received the Davy Medal from the Royal Society in 1895 and (conjointly with Lord Rayleigh) the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1904. He is the author of three textbooks of chemistry and *The Discovery of the Constituents of the Air*, besides many separate papers and memoirs.

At the outbreak of the War Sir William Ramsay at once devoted his great knowledge to the service of our country, and was able to render invaluable assistance to the Government until his health failed some few months since, the malady proving fatal, to the great sorrow of his family and his very numerous friends.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SWEDEN.—Dr. Axel O. Gavelin has been appointed Director in succession to Dr. Johan Gunnar Andersson. Dr. Gavelin was born in 1875 at Wilhelmina in Lapland, joined the Survey in 1902, and was appointed State Geologist in 1909. He has been acting-head of the Survey during Dr. Andersson's absence in China.

CABINET PALÉONTOLOGIQUE DE L'INSTITUT DES MINES DE L'IMPÉRATRICE CATHERINE II, PETROGRAD, RUSSIE.—We have just received the announcement from Professor Nicholas Yakovleff, Professor of Palæontology in the Institute of Mines, Petrograd, Russia, that on May 5 last, at the Institute of Mines, the "Russian Palæontological Society" was founded by about fifty Russian geologists, palæontologists, zoologists, and botanists. It is the intention of the Society to publish an annual volume in which will appear smaller articles of general interest, and it has also in view the publication of palæontological monographs which will be printed separately.