

delivered addresses on "Half a Century of Sanitary Progress and its Results" and "On the Comparative Mortality of English Districts". As remarked in the *Lancet* (November 8, 1913, p. 1356), "he probably influenced the sanitary development of this country more than anyone else." He was Examiner in Hygiene and State Medicine for the University of London, and for the diploma of Public Health at Cambridge. He likewise served on various departmental committees, including the annual Consultatory Committee on the Geological Survey, under the Board of Education. To the Geological Survey he rendered much assistance in the matter of water supply, and his name appears on the title-page of memoirs dealing with the wells and borings in Lincolnshire, Suffolk, Kent, and Sussex (supplement). Dr. Parsons became a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1877, and a member of the Geologists' Association in 1911. He was an active member of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, usually exhibiting at the meetings of the Geological Section some of the fossils which he had collected. As President for the year 1912 he delivered (on January 21 of this year) an address on "Plant Growth and Soil Conditions".

H. B. W.

PROFESSOR DR. ANTON FRITSCH.

WE regret to record the death of our old friend Professor Dr. Anton Fritsch, Director of the Royal Bohemian Natural History Museum, Prague, which took place on the morning of November 15. Dr. Fritsch had attained his 82nd year, and we hope to give some account of his long scientific career next month.

MISCELLANEOUS.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR TO THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND MUSEUM.—The President of the Board of Education has appointed Dr. Aubrey Strahan, F.R.S., to be Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Museum of Practical Geology, in succession to Dr. J. J. H. Teall, F.R.S., who will retire from the post on January 5 next. Dr. Strahan, who was born in 1852, was educated at Eton and St. John's College, Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1903, and is President of the Geological Society. He is the Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of England and Wales.

Dr. Teall, who was born on January 5, 1849, has been Director of the Geological Survey and Museum since 1901. He is the author of *British Petrography, a Description of the Rocks of the British Isles*, 1888.

KENT COAL-FIELD.—Dr. Malcolm Burr has tabulated and printed in the *Colliery Guardian* for October 10, 1913, the available information as to the strata revealed by the borings at Tilmantstone, Guildford, Oxney, Maydensole, Ripple, Barfrestone, Goodnestone, Trapham, Woodnesborough, Stodmarsh, Walmestone, and Mattice Hill. We say 'available' because, as the author notes, many of the bores being made by chisel there were no 'cores' of the softer beds. Detailed reports are promised later by Mr. Arber and Mr. H. Bolton.