

**Sir Jethro Justinian Harris Teall.** By Dr. J. S. Flett, F.R.S.

(Read March 23, 1925.)

SIR JETHRO JUSTINIAN HARRIS TEALL was born on 5th January 1849. His father died before his son was born, and the boy was educated at private schools, proceeding to St John's College, Cambridge, in 1869. He had shown marked interest in mathematics and physical science, but at Cambridge he studied for the Natural Sciences Tripos, and was especially influenced by the teaching of Professor Bonney, who was at that time a tutor of St John's. Teall graduated B.A. in 1873 and M.A. in 1876. In 1874 he was awarded the Sedgwick prize for an essay on the Potton and Wicken Phosphatic Deposits, which was subsequently published.

He took up University Extension lecturing, principally on geology and physical geography, and delivered courses of lectures for several years in various English towns. Meanwhile, he devoted much time to British petrography, a subject in which Bonney, Rutley, Sorby, Tawney, Allport, and others had made great progress. He soon showed that he was an expert in the use of the petrological microscope, a competent chemist, a careful observer, and a sound critic; above all, he had a knowledge of foreign literature, methods, and results, which gave his work great interest. His principal fields of work were Cornwall (especially the Lizard district), Northumberland, and the English Midlands, and at this period he was interested principally in igneous rocks. In 1886 he began the preparation of his well-known book on British Petrography, of which the last part was issued in 1888. For this he used not only his own collection, but by the assistance of friends he was able to examine large series of rocks from all parts of Britain. Hence, when the work was completed, he had established his claim to be the foremost British petrographer.

In 1888 he joined the Geological Survey as petrographer, a post he held till 1901, and during his tenure of this office he made great contributions to Survey memoirs, of which his work on the Galloway granites and their contact rocks and on the metamorphic rocks of the North-West Highlands hold first place. But in addition to this he published the results of investigations on rocks in other districts in Scotland and in England, and on rocks of foreign countries submitted to him for description. He was Secretary of the Geological Society of London from 1893 to 1897, and President in 1900-1902. He also presided over the Geological Section of

the British Association at Nottingham in 1893, and over the Geologists' Association in 1898-1900.

In 1901, on Sir Archibald Geikie's retirement, Dr Teall was appointed Director of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom; when the Irish Survey was detached in 1905 he became Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. His work thereafter was largely administrative, and he introduced many improvements in the Geological Museum and the Survey. Colour-printing of the maps was more generally adopted; economic investigations were stimulated, and the revision of districts which had been long unrevised was pushed forward energetically. He had wide sympathies with workers in all departments of Geology, and always encouraged the work of amateurs in every possible way—a result possibly of the fact that till he was nearly forty years of age he had himself been an amateur. He rather disliked administrative work, but he had the unanimous support of his staff, and devoted himself wholly to the furtherance of the best interests of the Geological Survey.

In 1916 he received the honour of knighthood. He was a F.R.S. (Lond.), Hon.F.R.S.E., D.Sc. (Dublin and Oxford), Sc.D. (Cambridge), LL.D. (St Andrews). In private life he was a man of simple tastes and great enthusiasm for scientific discoveries in all fields of research, a keen golfer, and amateur photographer—a man of many interests and innumerable friends. He died on July 2, 1924.

Lady Teall, who survives him, has shown her artistic skill in many beautiful plates that appeared as illustrations of his *British Petrography*.