

Long before I had personally met him, his work, so deep, so wide, so balanced, so exceptionally thorough, had proclaimed him to me as *the* master palæobotanist of our time. Professor Seward has referred to his magnificent memoir on the fossil flora of Tonkin: it is, I think, the most perfect piece of palæobotanical work extant—the most perfect in not only containing conclusions of far-reaching and profound significance, but in being the freest from the minor defects of misapprehensions, of carelessnesses, misquotations, and incomplete or incorrect references which are present in nearly all work and abound in some.

It was on visiting Professor Zeiller in Paris, however, that the full extent of his work became apparent to me. The wonderful collection of fossil plants which he had brought together and so intimately knew is, in some respects, unsurpassed and is invaluable to students. Then, too, Professor Zeiller held a unique position in relation to practical mining, and was the guide, philosopher, and friend of Government Departments and coal-miners in a way which is almost unimaginable in this country, where palæobotanists are held in little honour and are put to little practical use. His prescience, based on detailed palæobotanical knowledge, saved his country many tens of thousands of pounds.

But surpassingly in Paris did the enchanting personality of the great man become apparent. Unique were his generosity, his sincerity, his aristocratic and beautiful courtesy and helpfulness towards the younger workers, at whose service he placed the whole storehouse of his profound and well-balanced knowledge. Even in Berlin, where I have heard nearly every other palæobotanist roundly abused, Zeiller—Frenchman though he was—was spoken of with affection and respect.

It is due only to the fact that Professor Zeiller worked in the 'Cinderella' science of palæobotany instead of in some popular and widely respected science like chemistry that his death is not universally hailed by the general public as the irreparable loss it is. To us who knew and loved him, as to his colleagues all over the world, no one can replace René Zeiller.

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14 WELL WALK,  
HAMPSTEAD HEATH, N.W.  
December 10, 1915.

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OBITUARY.

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ARTHUR VAUGHAN, M.A., D.Sc., F.G.S.,  
LECTURER IN GEOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Arthur Vaughan, which occurred on Friday, December 3, 1915, at 315 Woodstock Road, Oxford, in his 47th year. We hope to give a notice of his geological work in the next number of the Magazine.