

Dr Charles S. Du Riche Preller, M.A., D.Sc., Ph.D., A.M.I.C.E.,  
M.I.E.E., etc.

DR DU RICHE PRELLER died in Edinburgh on 17th February 1929, in his eighty-fifth year. He came of an old Huguenot family, which settled in England early in the eighteenth century; he was born in Yorkshire, and began his training in Bradford as an engineer. He went on to Paris and to Lyons, working as an engineer, and afterwards to Leipzig and Heidelberg, where he learned chemistry, physics, and geology, taking his Ph.D. in the former University. Of his long and busy professional life the friends of his latter years know little; but it is known that he engaged in many important, and also lucrative, undertakings as an electrical engineer in Italy, France, and Switzerland. He was employed chiefly in connection with Swiss and Italian mountain-railways, with various schemes of hydro-electric power transmission, and also in connection with the electric lighting of French lighthouses.

He had an extraordinary acquaintance with Italian topography over the length and breadth of the whole peninsula; he was also expert in the glacial geology of the Alps, the volcanic geology of Italy, and the crystalline rocks of the Apennines. His book on *Italian Mountain Geology*, published in 1918, has run through two editions; it gained for its author an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Florence, and honorary membership of the Italian Geographical and Geological Societies.

He contributed numerous papers (1890–1917) on mountain and electric railways, hydro-electric works, power transmission, electric lighthouses, alpine lake basins, glacial geology, and other subjects to *Engineering* and to the publications of the Institutes of Civil Engineers and of Electrical Engineers, the Geological Society, and other bodies. He was awarded a Telford Premium by the Institute of Civil Engineers in each of the years 1891, 1892, and 1893.

Dr Preller retired from professional work and settled in Edinburgh in 1902. His marriage (in 1879) with Miss Rachel Steuart Bruce, whose father, Thomas Bruce of Langlee, had been a neighbour and personal friend of Sir Walter Scott, was the link which attracted him to Edinburgh.

Dr Preller was fluent in five languages. He found time, in his long life, for some out-of-the-way but very interesting studies. He wrote frequently on music. He knew his geology from the historical side, and knew (for

instance) what few if any other men of our time do know, the details of Steno's old studies of the Tuscan tertiary formations. He was fond of writing articles to the *Scottish Chronicle* and *Scottish Churchman*, often on mediæval Saints and scholars—St Catherine, St Bernard of Clairvaux, Peter Abelard, and so forth. These articles are marked, not only by historical learning, but by his peculiar knowledge of topography; writing of St Bernard he talks intimately of Dijon, Cluny, and Clairvaux, and writing of St Catherine he is as much or more at home in Siena, Pisa, and Avignon.

He was a kindly man, and a generous benefactor to this Society.

Dr Preller was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1902.

D. W. T.