

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WE note with regret the death of Francesco Sansoni, Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Pavia. He died on the 28th of March, 1895, at the age of 42; his name will chiefly be associated with the *Giornale di Mineralogia*, of which he was the founder and editor; among his published memoirs the most noteworthy are those upon the crystallography of calcite; during a period of three years Dr. Sansoni, before his appointment at Pavia, was occupied in examining calcite in various European collections, and some results of his studies have been published at intervals during the last few years.

We have received notice of the death of Professor Hermann Knoblauch, the distinguished President of the Kaiserliche Leopoldinisch-Carolinische Akademie, who died on the 30th of June in the 76th year of his age. Also of the death, on the 26th of June, at the age of 27, of Gustav Nordenskiöld, son of the famous Mineralogist and Arctic Explorer, Baron A. E. Nordenskiöld, and himself a Mineralogist of some reputation.

Dr. Richard Brauns, formerly at the technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe, has been appointed Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Giessen, in succession to Professor A. Streng, who has been compelled to resign on account of ill-health.

Dr. N. V. Ussing becomes Professor of Mineralogy at Copenhagen, in succession to the late Dr. Johnstrup.

Dr. Koken has been appointed to the Chair of Mineralogy and Geology at Tübingen, where he succeeds Professor Quenstedt; Dr. K. Oebbeke, of Erlangen, has been appointed Professor of Mineralogy at the technische Hochschule, of Munich, where he succeeds Professor Haushofer; and Dr. K. Futterer, of Berlin, enters upon similar duties at the technische Hochschule of Karlsruhe.

Copies have reached us of recent numbers of the two youngest English magazines which deal with general science, namely *Science Progress* and *Natural Science*. Almost every number of the former journal contains articles of mineralogical and geological interest in the form of critical summaries of recent discovery.

The July number (No. 41) of *Natural Science* consists mainly of an interesting series of authoritative articles upon the scientific results of the *Challenger* Expedition, among which we may specially call attention to an article on Coral Reefs by Prof. J. W. Judd, C.B., one on Chemico-biological changes in the Ocean by R. Irvine, and one on Marine Deposits by J. Chumley.

We have received the first part of a new volume on Precious Stones, "Edelsteinkunde," by Prof. Max Bauer, of Marburg, which promises to be an important treatise, embellished with beautiful coloured plates: more detailed review is reserved for our next number.

Dr. Valentine Ball, C.B., F.R.S., Director of the Science and Art Museum in Dublin, died on the 15th of June, 1895, in the 52nd year of his age. He was Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Dublin from 1881 to 1883, and published numerous papers on geological and mineralogical subjects. His valuable treatise on the Economic Geology of India, in particular, is well known.

The veteran physicist F. E. Neumann died on the 23rd of May, 1895. So long a time has elapsed since the publication of his earliest papers in 1823, and his name has been so prominently associated with other branches of study, that his mineralogical work belongs to a bygone generation; it is difficult to realise that a man who was making most important contributions to physical crystallography seventy years ago could still be living in the present year.

Neumann was born in 1798, and was appointed to the Professorship of Mineralogy in Königsberg in 1828, having been attracted to that subject by Weiss.