

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WE note with regret the death, on March 30th, 1898, of Mr. James I'Anson, of Darlington, a well-known engineer who was for many years a member not only of the Mineralogical Society, but of its Council. In conjunction with Mr. E. A. Pankhurst he published in this Magazine an interesting paper on "Some Artificial Forms of Silica," illustrative of the structure of Agates and Chalcedonies.

The deaths are also reported of two eminent foreign mineralogists—Dr. Karl Ludwig Fridolin von Sandberger, who was elected a Foreign Member of this Society in the year 1879; and Dr. Christian Wilhelm Blomstrand, of Lund.

Dr. Sandberger was until recently Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Würzburg, where he was appointed in 1863. His name will always be associated with the remarkable advances in the study of ore-deposits, which were initiated by his researches. His view that the contents of metalliferous veins are derived by lateral secretion from the country rock was defended by careful observations upon mineral paragenesis and analyses of the minerals in the neighbourhood of the lodes, especially in the mining region of Schapbach. His *Untersuchungen über Erzgänge* was a most valuable contribution to the subject, and for the last 25 years his researches have been well known to all mineralogists. Prof. Sandberger was also the author of numerous papers on mineralogical and geological subjects, especially on fossil mollusca, published in the *Neues Jahrbuch f. Mineralogie* and in the geological journals. He died on April 11th, 1898, at the age of 72 years.

Dr. Blomstrand was Professor of Chemistry in the University of Lund, and his name is connected with numerous analyses, chiefly of Scandinavian minerals, compounds of the rare earths and of uranium, in which difficult subject he had no superior in skill and experience among contemporary chemists. He died on November 5th, 1897, in his 71st year.

Among recent appointments we note that of Mr. L. V. Pirsson to the Professorship of Physical Geology in Harvard University, and of Dr. J. L. C. Schroeder van der Kolk to the Professorship of Mineralogy in the Polytechnikum of Delft.

Professor Hintze, of Breslau, has, we are glad to see, entered upon the second volume of his great handbook, to which we have previously called attention. The first *Lieferung*, which has been recently published, contains accounts of diamond, graphite, sulphur, the arsenic group and iron, treated in the exhaustive and elaborate manner, both as regards description of properties and of localities, with which the silicates have already been described in the first volume.

All mineralogists will welcome the fourth edition of Professor Groth's *Tabellarische Uebersicht der Mineralien*, a work so well known to students and to curators of collections that it requires no recommendation beyond its own name.

The new edition differs from the last in having prefixed to each mineral group a general introduction which will be found of the greatest value to students as a survey of the most recent discoveries regarding the chemical constitution of minerals, and still more as an expression of the author's own interpretation. The crystallographic symmetry of each mineral is also more definite. The general arrangement of the book remains much the same as before.

We have received the following books:—

T. Fletcher. *The Commercial Uses of Coal Gas*. Fletcher, Russell and Co., Ltd. A supplement to the same author's *Coal Gas as a Fuel*, containing useful notes on the applications of coal-gas in a number of industries.

J. W. Leonard. *The Gold Fields of the Klondike*. T. Fisher Unwin. A book which instructs the fortune hunter how to get there and how to outfit.