Obituary.

Dr. Paul Brühl (1855—1935).

PROF. PAUL JOHANNES BRÜHL was born in Saxony on the 25th February 1855 and was the only surviving son of Michæl Brühl. He finished his early education in German schools and colleges and joined the botanical touring party obtaining the travelling scholarship, as was customary during those days. He walked all the way through Central Europe, Asia Minor and Armenia after halting for a short period at Constantinople where he worked as a teacher for some time. During his tour he made valuable botanical collections. He reached India in 1881 and joined the Rajshahi College in 1882 as a teacher of Natural Sciences. In 1883 he married Annie Betts Fox. His botanical interest was known at this time and the reputed Botanist Sir George King, the then Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, got him transferred to the Bengal Engineering College in 1887. Here Prof. Brühl taught various subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Geology including Mineralogy, Heat Engines and Agriculture. His vast knowledge in many subjects and more than fourteen languages and art of teaching and laboratory methods were of a high standard which soon gained explicity all over this country. His popularity and sympathy towards his students and his keen interest in their welfare made Prof. Brühl's name a household word in many a Bengali house. His research work in Botany during his off time after the teaching work at the Engineering College found expression in such voluminous publications as *A Century of New and Rare Indian Plants* in collaboration with Sir George King. This work was published in the *Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta*, Vol. V, part II with 102–200 plates, most of which are Brühl's own sketches. His papers on "Plant Immigrants" is an important contribution towards the distribution of foreign plants in India. He officiated as the Principal of the Engineering College for some time. He retired from the Engineering College in 1912 and in recognition of his valuable and faithful service for forty years in the Government Educational Department, the title of Indian Service Order was conferred upon him by the Government of Bengal. After his retirement from the Government service his interest for research work did not abate. In 1912 from October to March, he worked in Chemical Geology in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He was for some time teacher in Geology and Mineralogy at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and officiating Patent Secretary to the Government of India. At the request of the late Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee, he accepted the post of the Registrar, Calcutta University, in 1913, and worked as a Registrar, Controller of Examinations and Secretary of the Arts and Science Department of the post-graduate classes which was just developing at this time. He had also to offer his valuable suggestions in building up the Post-Graduate Laboratories and was subsequently entrusted to build up the Biological Laboratory of the Calcutta University and was appointed the University Professor of Botany. His scientific investigation was recognised by the University in offering him Doctor of Sciences as *Honoris Causa*. As a University Professor he is one of the pioneers in the investigations of the Lower Cryptogams and in forming the present Indian Botanical Society of India. Here, as a teacher of the post-graduate classes in Botany again, he was able to contribute a large number of papers in Botany—his much beloved subject—in collaboration with his students. As president of a Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal, his research work, financed by the Government of Bengal, on the eradication of Water Hyacinth from 1925 onwards resulted in the publication of many papers which suggested various avenues of investigation on this vital question.

Among his many publications his latest contribution entitled "A Census of Indian Mosses" published in the *Records of the Botanical Survey of India*, Vol. VIII, 1930, and his book on "Sikkim Orchids" are of the greatest value to the botanical investigation in India.

He has left one son and three daughters and many successful students, friends, colleagues and admirers to mourn his loss.

K. BISWAS.