

OBITUARY.

Dr. Panchanan Mitra.

DR. PANCHANAN MITRA, Head of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Calcutta, died suddenly at his residence in Calcutta on the 25th of July last, after a short illness, at the early age of 45. He was born in 1891 and was the grandson of the (late) Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra, one of the most distinguished scholars of his time and the first Indian to become the President of the Asiatic (now Royal) Society of Bengal, Calcutta.

After a distinguished career in the Calcutta University Dr. Mitra acted for a short time as a Lecturer in English in the Bangabashi College, but early turned his attention to Prehistory and was awarded the Premchand Raichand Scholarship of the Calcutta University in 1919. The same year he was appointed on the staff of the Department of Anthropology which was started by the late Sir Asutosh Mukherji. In 1929 he was awarded a Fellowship of the Bishops Museum of Honolulu through the good offices of Prof. Craighill Handy who desired an Indian scholar to visit Polynesia and study the possible sources of Indian influence in that region. The results of Dr. Mitra's researches in Polynesia have been incorporated in a monograph entitled *Indian Cultural Influence upon Polynesia* which will soon be published by the Bishops Museum. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Yale University for his thesis on "The History of American Anthropology" in 1931. The same year he visited several prehistoric sites in France and Spain as a member of the American School of Archæology in France. After his return to India in 1932 Dr. Mitra was given charge of the Department of Anthropology on the retirement of Dewan Bahadur Dr. L. A. Ananthakrishna Iyer. Dr. Mitra performed his teaching work in the Calcutta University with great devotion and enthusiasm and was mainly responsible for organising the Department in its new rooms in the Science College, Ballygunge.

He presided over the Anthropological Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1933 and was the author of several articles in addition to two books on "Prehistory of India" and "History of American Anthropology" published by the Calcutta Uni-

versity. He was also a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation in 1924, and took a keen interest in many religious associations.

B. S. G.

Lt.-Col. R. Knowles, C.I.E., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., I.M.S.

LT.-COL. R. KNOWLES, C.I.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., I.M.S., acting Director of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, died on 3rd August at the Tropical Diseases Hospital, of heart failure following gastric hæmorrhage.

Lt.-Col. R. Knowles, son of Rev. J. Knowles, was born on 30th October 1883, at Quilon, Travancore. After a distinguished educational career at Cambridge and London, he entered the I.M.S. in 1908, and moved all round India, on military duty for the next 5 years. He was appointed in 1912 Assistant Director, Pasteur Institute of India, Kasauli, and in August 1914, he served as medical officer, 110th Maharatta Light Infantry, Indian Expeditionary Force, Mesopotamia. In 1916, he was appointed Director to organise the newly started King Edward VII Memorial Pasteur Institute, Shillong, which post he relinquished in 1920 to take up the Professorship of Pathology, Calcutta Medical College, as successor to Sir Leonard Rogers who at that time was raising funds to establish a School of Tropical Medicine. When Sir Leonard Rogers retired owing to ill-health, he chose Lt.-Col. Knowles, to organise the School of Tropical Medicine. In 1921, he was appointed Professor of Protozoology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, which post he held until his death. He was Assistant Editor, (1922-1928) and later Editor, *Indian Medical Gazette*. Lt.-Col. Knowles was well known for his numerous scientific papers and memoirs, bearing on medical protozoology.

WE have to record the death of Dr. F. J. F. SHAW, D.Sc., I.A.S., in Pusa on the 29th July. He was Director of the Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa and was officiating as Agricultural Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.