

observed in their natural haunts, how they may be collected and preserved if wanted for museums, or how they may be transported alive when required for anti-malarial work. The seven plates at the end with clear dot and line drawings of Indian freshwater fishes which enhance the value of this little *Bulletin*, should help not only medical men, but also students of fishes, to familiarise themselves with the features of

some of the principal Indian larvivorous fishes.

The *Bulletin*, which is priced at 7 annas or 8d. a copy, is published in Delhi by the Manager of Publications, and may be obtained from the Agents to the Government of India Publications in India and from private book-sellers, a list of which is given on the page opposite to the Prefatory Note.

H. S. R.

OBITUARY

Dayaram Sahni, M.A., C.I.E.

RAI BAHADUR DAYARAM SAHNI, M.A., C.I.E., late Director-General of Archæology, died suddenly on the 7th March 1939 of heart failure at Jaipur, where he was employed as Director of Archæological Researches since 1935. Rai Bahadur was the first Indian to be trained in the modern methods of archæological excavations, and by his death India loses a most experienced archæologist.

Rai Bahadur belonged to a respectable family of Khattris from Bhera in Shahpur District, Punjab. He was born on 16th December 1879. After passing his M.A. from the Oriental College at Lahore, with Sanskrit as his main language, he was selected for the archæological scholarship instituted by the late Lord Curzon's Government, with a view to preparing suitable Indian scholars for archæological work. Sir John Marshall, who was then organising the first systematic campaign of excavations in India, found in Rai Bahadur a willing and capable assistant. He worked at the excavations conducted by the Department at Sarnath near Benares, Kasia, the scene of the Great Buddha's decease. Sahet Meheth, the ancient Sravasti, Rajgir in Bihar, Mandar near Jodhpur, and Rampurva in Champaran. At Sarnath, Mr. Sahni studied the finds and prepared a comprehensive catalogue and a guide to the ruins. After a year, at the Lucknow Museum, where he worked as Curator, Mr. Sahni's services were lent to the Kashmir State, in December 1912. During the next four years, Mr. Sahni studied the architectural remains in Kashmir, and excavated at several places, among which may be mentioned Avantipur, the city of Avantivarman, Parihaspur, Hushkur, and Martand, the well-known site of a temple in classical style. In 1917, Mr. Sahni returned for work, to Lahore, where he took over the Hindu and Buddhist monuments in the

United Provinces and Punjab to his charge. After carrying out important archæological work at Deogarh, Sarnath and other places in the United Provinces, Rai Bahadur Sahni then commenced a series of excavations at Harappa, which was shortly afterwards recognised as the foundation of our knowledge of one of the earliest cities of the Indus Valley culture. Since 1925, Rai Bahadur Dayaram Sahni was engaged at the Headquarters of the Government of India, first as a Deputy Director-General, and finally in July 1931, when he became Director-General. Unfortunately, his advent coincided with an era of unprecedented curtailment of activities owing to the need of retrenchment and his three years' tenure as Director-General was consequently very much handicapped and the lowest watermark of funds allotted to this cultural activity was reached. However, he carried the Department through this period and on retirement found fresh scope for his capacities in the almost untapped and rich archæological field in the State of Jaipur. His excavations at Birat, where he unearthed one of the earliest Buddhist *stupas* in Rajputana, were highly successful. He carried out one or two seasons' work at the ancient city site of Naliasar-Sambhar near the well-known salt lake and at the time of his death was engaged in another important excavation at Rairh where he had hit upon another rich site of the early period.

Rai Bahadur Sahni was awarded the title of C.I.E. after his retirement in 1935.

Besides the two publications on Sarnath, Rai Bahadur contributed numerous other articles to scientific journals, particularly on Epigraphical subjects, bringing to light and interpreting many records of the past, particularly from the United Provinces and Northern India.