

Mr. Watson was born in the North of England in 1842, and spent most of his life in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he became Managing Director of the Gateshead Works for the manufacture of Portland cement. Some years ago, on retiring from business, he removed to Cambridge, where he resided until his death. Disdaining a life of ease, he devoted his special knowledge and great energy to the acquisition of an unrivalled collection of building-stones, ornamental marbles, and other materials connected with building. These he presented to the Sedgwick Museum, and spent his leisure in arranging them and writing descriptive catalogues. Two of the catalogues have already been published, and are well known to geologists and to those connected with building, namely, *British and Foreign Building Stones* and *British and Foreign Marbles and other Ornamental Stones*. At the time of his death he was engaged in the preparation of manuscripts for books on slates, limes, and cements, and it is hoped that the material is in a state which will permit of its publication in the not distant future.

Mr. Watson made many journeys at home and abroad in order to render his collection as complete as possible, for he spared neither time nor money in carrying out his self-imposed task; accordingly the collection remains with us, a worthy monument to his labours, specially valuable at a time when the claims for the teaching of economic geology have become insistent.

In 1911 the University of Cambridge recognized the value of his labours by conferring upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

He died as the result of an accident—a fall from a ladder—on July 3.

Mr. Watson was greatly esteemed for his sterling character, singular modesty, and charm of manner. His colleagues at Cambridge will greatly miss the cheery ways and eager enthusiasm of their old friend, but it is satisfactory to know that he had completed so much of the work which he set out to accomplish, which was to him veritably a labour of love.

J. E. M.

PROFESSOR VOLDEMAR AMALITSKY.

News has just been received, by a letter posted in Petrograd on March 2, that Professor Voldemar Amalitsky died suddenly from heart disease on December 15/28, 1917, at Kislovodsk (North Caucasus). Many friends in this country would wish to convey their sympathy to his widow, who we trust may emerge safely from these terrible times.

We hope later to publish a full notice of Amalitsky's great work in the discovery and rescue of numbers of entire skeletons of Permian (or Triassic) reptiles from the banks of the Northern Dwina, near Archangel, in Northern Russia, 1904 and earlier (see *GEOL. MAG.*, 1905, p. 514).

F. A. B.