



PROFESSOR K. K. MATHUR

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Professor K. K. Mathur.

WE deeply regret to record the premature death on 18th July 1936, at the early age of 43, of Prof. K. K. Mathur, Professor of Geology, Benares Hindu University, and one of the Foundation Fellows of the Indian Academy of Sciences. After a distinguished educational career in India and abroad, Mr. Mathur was appointed Professor of Geology in the Benares Hindu University, which post he held with great distinction for these 15 years. Only about a year before his death, Prof. Mathur was elevated to be the Principal of the Science College in the Hindu University; and it is sad to think that Death snatched him away so soon and deprived the institution of the full benefits of his ripe experience and mature judgment.

In the field of Indian geology, the late Prof. Mathur will long be remembered for his valuable work on the petrology of the Deccan traps, his paper on the "Magmatic Differentiation in Mount Girnar" (*Jour. Geo.*, 1926, **34**, No. 4) being an outstanding contribution. In the course of his microscopic study of the rocks from this area, Prof. Mathur was able to recognise a new member of the Hastingsite group of amphiboles (which he called *girnarite*), the physical, chemical, and optical properties of which he described in a paper published in 1931. From the Presidential chair of the Geology Section of the Indian Science Congress, which he was invited to occupy in January 1934, Prof. Mathur delivered a very lucid and suggestive address on "Some problems of petrogenesis in the Deccan trap"; and there is no doubt that, if he had been spared for some more years, he would himself have contributed largely to the elucidation of many of these problems.

By his genial and courteous temperament, the late Prof. Mathur had gathered round him a band of young and enthusiastic workers and was thus responsible for building up the reputation which the Benares Hindu University now enjoys as a centre of geological instruction and research. By his simplicity of habits and sincerity of purpose, he had endeared himself to a large circle of friends and relations to many of whom his death comes with all the poignancy of a personal bereavement.

L. R.