

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

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THE deplorable death of Baron Heinrich von Foullon, at the age of 46, has closed a career of active work in Mineralogy and Geology. Baron Foullon, who was Geologist at the Geological "Reichsanstalt" at Vienna, was a member of the unfortunate exploring expedition sent to the Solomon Islands by the Austrian Government. The whole party of explorers was massacred by the natives in August 1896.

Baron Foullon was a voluminous writer, and published papers on a number of subjects of mineralogical and geological interest, especially in relation to Petrology.

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The death of Dr. J. W. Retgers, of Haag, removes an equally energetic student from the physical and chemical side of Mineralogy. Dr. Retgers, who was for many years occupied in Java, only devoted himself comparatively late in life to Chemistry and Crystallography, but displayed a marvellous activity, of which the record remains in a long series of papers upon Isomorphism and kindred subjects, published mostly in the *Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie*.

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Another familiar name which disappears from the list of active workers is that of Dr. August Streng, for many years Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Giessen, where he was recently succeeded by Dr. Brauns. Professor Streng died on the 7th of January, at the age of 66.

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A notable event is the completion of a volume of Professor Hintze's colossal *Handbuch der Mineralogie*, of which the first instalment was issued in 1889. Attention was called to the commencement of this great undertaking in Vol. IX. p. 48 of this Magazine, where it was mentioned that Professor Hintze hoped to complete the undertaking in 3 or 4 years. The first volume alone has occupied more than 7 years, and

this is by no means surprising. The volume contains no less than 1831 pages of closely printed material, and deals with the silicates and titanates with a luxuriance of detail never before attempted. Complete accounts of all the occurrences and associations are given for all the known localities, in addition to the general characters of each mineral. For example, the description of anorthite alone occupies 20 pages, contains 14 figures, a list of 94 angles, an account of 81 analyses, and a description of about 80 localities. The work is an invaluable book of reference, since it contains all that is to be found in other descriptive treatises and a great deal more besides, and appears to be extraordinarily accurate. The present volume is to be the second volume of the treatise, although it has been issued first.

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A treatise of almost equal detail, but confined to the minerals of France and her colonies, is also completed, so far as the silicates and titanates are concerned, by the recent issue of the first part of the second volume of Professor A. Lacroix's *Minéralogie de la France et de ses Colonies*; the first volume of which was reviewed in Vol. X. p. 168 of this Magazine. This valuable treatise will ultimately consist of 3 volumes.

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We have received a Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania, by W. F. Petterd (Launceston, 1896), a little book which contains a descriptive account of all the mineral occurrences hitherto known in that island.

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