

## OBITUARY.

FRANCIS ARTHUR BATHER, F.R.S.

1863-1934.

F. A. Bather, whose death on March 20 was recorded in an earlier number of this Journal, graduated from New College, Oxford, in 1886, with the M. A. degree, taking first-class honors in natural science. The following year he became assistant in the Department of Geology in the British Museum (Natural History), where he had charge of fossil echinoderms, and here he remained until his retirement in 1928. In 1902 he was made deputy keeper, and in 1924 keeper, of the department. Much honored at home and abroad, he was President of Section C of the British Association in 1920, and for two years (1927, 1928) president of the Geological Society of London; and his three presidential addresses, "Fossils and life," "Biological classification: present and future," and "The fossil and its environment" are notable contributions to the philosophy of Paleozoology.

Bather began to publish in 1886, first on geological subjects and then on cephalopods, but ever since 1889 his main paleontologic interests have been with the echinoderms, and more specifically with the crinoids. He also made a special study of the "technics" of museum and laboratory, of bibliographic methods, and of rules of nomenclature, and he did valuable editorial work, first with the excellent but short-lived *Natural Science*, and later with the effective *Museums Journal*. His hundreds of brief notes and reviews, his longer papers, and particularly his memoirs and monographs evince a deeply analytical and philosophical mind, a lucid style, a strong sense of law and order, and a habit of forthright speech. As an example of his critical analysis may be cited his review of the two-volume Wachsmuth and Springer monograph on the Crinoidea Camerata (1897), which occupies 64 pages.

It can truthfully be said that Bather advanced general knowledge of the morphology and classification of the stalked Echinodermata more than any other paleontologist of his time. Of greatest help to the greatest number are his annual "Record of, and index to, the literature of Echinoderma," which began to appear in 1894 in the *Zoological Record*; and his valuable volume, "The Echinoderma" in Lankester's "Treatise on zoology" (1900). His first great work on crinoids is entitled "The Crinoidea [Inadunata] of Gotland" (200 pages, 1893), but the work that Bather considered his masterpiece is "Caradocian Cystidea from Girvan" (170 pages, 1913). Another monumental work is "Studies in Edrioasteroidea" (120 pages, 1899-1915).

CHARLES SCHUCHERT.