

OBITUARY.

GUY E. PILGRIM, 1875-1943.

HENRY GUY ELLCOCK PILGRIM, Fellow of the Royal Society and sometime Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, died at Upton near Didcot, in the English County of Berkshire, on September 15, 1943.

He was born into an old colonial family at Stepney, Barbados, on December 24, 1875, the son of Henry Ellcock Pilgrim and Beatrice Lucy Wrenford. He matriculated at Harrison College on the same island and his education was continued at University College, London, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1901, and that of Doctor of Science in 1908.

Meanwhile, the field of his all-important contributions to geological science was foreshadowed by his appointment to the Geological Survey of India in 1902. He was promoted to Superintendent in 1920, and continued in that office until his retirement in 1930. Thereafter, he made his home at Upton, but spent much of his time in active work as a member of the supernumerary staff of the Department of Geology, British Museum (Natural History).

His early geological explorations in the Persian Gulf region of Arabia and Persia were described in two Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India (XXXIV, 4, 1908 and XLVIII, 2, 1924). He was the first European to visit parts of Trucial Oman, and the first geologist to explore Bahrein Island, where he discovered the dome structure, a knowledge of which resulted in the present extensive oil exploitation there.

However, his greatest contributions to Geology have been in the fields of the Cenozoic continental stratigraphy and vertebrate paleontology of the sedimentary formations of India and adjacent countries, beginning with the description of fossil Proboscidea from the alluvium of the Godavari River, in 1905. Following in the footsteps of Falconer, Cautley, and Lydekker, he ably devoted rare energy and zeal to the manifold problems of Siwalik stratigraphy and paleontology. As noted by the late W. D. Matthew, "The admirable later work of . . . Pilgrim was the first to make clear distinctions between the successive faunas, and added very largely to the faunas. . ." E. H. Colbert has pointed out the fact that "Dr. Pilgrim virtually opened the field in the discovery and study of Lower Siwalik vertebrates" and stratigraphy. His "Preliminary Note on a Revised Classification of the Freshwater Tertiary Deposits of India" (Rec. Geol. Surv. India, LX, 3, 1910) gave the

world the first accurate and modern understanding of this great problem, and fifty of the two hundred species dealt with were discovered by him. Early in his career, he found and studied the first of numerous specimens of fossil great apes. His many finds and extensive research bearing on these fossils of paramount human interest, apart from all his other contributions to science, would have insured his reputation as one of the most distinguished vertebrate paleontologists of this century.

Subsequent years brought many new fossil discoveries and a great number of additional studies in the same field, as a result of his vigorous collecting, observation, and productive research. In addition to numerous shorter publications, principally appearing in the Records of the Geological Survey of India, he was the author of an important series of Memoirs in the *Palaeontologica Indica*. These included "The Fossil Giraffidae of India," "The Vertebrate Fauna of the Gaj Series," "The Perissodactyla of the Eocene of Burma," "The Fossil Suidae of India," "A *Sivapithecus* Palate and Other Primate Fossils from India," "The Fossil Carnivora of India," and "The Fossil Bovidae of India." The "Catalogue of the Pontian Carnivora of Europe" (Cat. Brit. Mus., 1931), and "Siwalik Antelopes and Oxen in the American Museum of Natural History" (Bull. A. M. N. H., LXXII, 7, 1937) should be mentioned also. This latter work was the fruit of his visit to the United States in 1932, where his admirable personal and scientific character won him many fast friendships among those in this country who had not had the privilege of knowing him previously. The "Catalogue of the Pontian Bovidae of Europe" (Cat. Brit. Mus., 1928) was written in collaboration with A. T. Hopwood.

He was President of the Geological Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1925, a Fellow of the Geological Society, a Corresponding Member of the Paleontological Society of America, a Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and on March 18, 1943, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society. The news of this last honor was most gratifying to his friends.

No tribute in memory of him would be complete without mention of one of his most important services to science: the encouragement of others in studies in his chosen field. Many younger men were privileged to receive his generous friendship, disinterested advice, and inspiring help, to their own great benefit. With his death, paleontology and stratigraphy have lost a distinguished leader.

GEORGE EDWARD LEWIS.