OBITUARY

DR. MAX BLANCKENHORN (1861-1947)

MAX LUDWIG PAUL BLANCKENHORN, pioneer German geologist whose contributions to the advancement of African and European geology are notable, died at his home in Marburg an der Lahn, Germany, in January 1947.

He was born on April 16, 1861, in Siegen where he had his education and was graduated in 1884. He was attracted to the Middle East by reading the scriptures, so that when he went to study further in Strassbourg, he developed his idea of working out the whole African geology. In 1887 he went to Berlin and carried out research work under Professors von Richthofen, Kiepert, and von Bezold. In 1888 he travelled with von Luschon and then alone to Syria and the Euphrates. He received his Doctorate Degree in 1891, his thesis being "Geology of Africa." In 1894, he travelled to Palestine, Sinai and Egypt, and in 1897 he was appointed as a field geologist and later as a paleontologist in the survey of Egypt on the strength of Zittel's recommendation. He mapped large parts of Egypt, travelled the whole of the Middle East, and contributed to the geology and paleontology of that area. In 1898 he became acquainted with Schweinfurth (1836-1925), an acquaintance which later developed into great friendship. They corresponded with each other until Schweinfurth's death, a correspondence which is partly deposited in the *Geologen Archiv.* Blanckenhorn then accompanied Stromer von Reichenbach on his famous expedition to Egypt collecting vertebrate remains, and in 1906 he was in Egypt for the last time as a member of the Royal Prussian Academy of Science expedition for the study of the Nile.

Blanckenhorn represents the last of a generation of geologists whose devotion to work has made possible our knowledge of the geology of areas of the earth where travelling was a difficult, dangerous and annoying task. It needed giant and adventurous figures to cross unmapped and unknown regions of the inhospitable and barren Sahara by primitive means of travel and inadequate, if any, instruments for contacting the outside world.

The period of Blanckenhorn's travels was one of his most prolific and fertile periods. He published more than forty papers on this region. Blanckenhorn's ideas on the tectonics, structure, stratigraphy and paleontology of the Tertiary and Quaternary are still valuable. Many of his terms have leaked into the geological literature of that area. He later condensed his ideas in two books which appeared in the series "Handbuch der regionalen Geologie," namely, "Syrien, Arabien und Mesopotamien" (1914), and "Aegypten" (1921), published in Heidelberg. These two books still remain among the

best written books on that area. At the end of this note a selected bibliography of Blanckenhorn's most important works is given.

Blanckenhorn became later an expert and co-worker of the "Preussischen Landesanstalt" where he examined and published the maps of the region between Kassel and Vogelsberg, and his experience has amplified our knowledge of the vulcanicity and tectonics of that region.

Blanckenhorn suffered during the two world wars. In the last war he lost most of his large library and was impoverished in the post war period. The present writer, an Egyptian geologist, was fortunate enough to be able to acquire the remains of his library and his personal geological instruments which will ultimately find their way to the Geological Museum of the Fouad I University, Cairo, Egypt.

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REVIEWS

The Chemistry and Technology of Enzymes; by HENRY TAUBER. Pp. viii, 550. New York, 1949 (John Wiley and Sons, Inc., $7.50). This book has been written to replace the Author's "Enzyme Technology." It combines in one volume both the industrial and the theoretical aspects of enzymes; thus meeting a need suggested by reviewers of the earlier volume. The first Part of the volume deals with the chemistry of enzymes in considerable detail (15 Chapters, 260 pages) with discussions of preparation, quantitative determination, and properties of them. The second part, on technology (17 Chapters, 259 pages) contains what appears to be a most up-to-date treatment of the industrial use of enzymes in the fermentation, baking and other food industries, medicinal, textile, leather, and other industries. The book reads well, has clear illustrations and appears to be thoroughly documented. The type and format give the book a good appearance. HAROLD G. CASSIDY

Dynamic Aspects of Biochemistry, American Edition; by ERNEST BALDWIN. Pp. xviii, 457. New York, 1947 (The Macmillan Com-