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VLADIMIR PROCHOROVITCH AMALITSKY.

BORN 1860.

DIED DECEMBER 28, 1917.

WE regret to learn that Professor Amalitsky, of Warsaw, died suddenly from heart failure last December at Kislovodsk, North Caucasus. He was born in Volhynia in 1860, and received his scientific education at the University of Petrograd, where he was especially attracted to geology by Professor Inostransev. He soon became an accomplished student, and early in his career was appointed Professor of Geology in the University of Warsaw. Afterwards he assumed the direction of the Polytechnic Institute in Warsaw, and was occupied with his duties there at the outbreak of war in 1914.

Professor Amalitsky devoted himself with great success to the study of the Permian formations of Russia, and made a special effort to discover remains of terrestrial and freshwater faunas and floras in these rocks. He first met with unusually well-preserved freshwater bivalved shells of the family Anthracosiidæ, which he described in the *Palæontographica*, vol. xxxix (1892), and in the first part of a Russian work intended to treat all aspects of Permian geology, published in Warsaw, also in 1892. Three years later he visited the British Museum, with his equally accomplished wife, who always shared his labours, and there he compared his Russian fossils with the corresponding shells from the Karoo formation of South Africa. The results of his researches were contributed to the Geological Society of London in a paper entitled "A Comparison of the Permian Freshwater Lamellibranchiata from Russia with those from the Karoo System of South Africa" (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. li, pp. 337-51, pls. xii, xiii, 1895).

While in London, Professor and Mrs. Amalitsky also studied the Karoo reptiles and other Permian and Triassic fossils. They then spent four seasons in exploring promising localities in the Permian region of the northern Dwina, and discovered not only more freshwater shells but also the characteristic *Glossopteris* Flora and great deposits of concretions containing the skeletons of Reptiles and Labyrinthodonts. In 1899 and 1900, with the aid of funds from the Russian Ministry of Public Instruction, they made extensive diggings in the beds of bone-bearing concretions and obtained a very large collection which was sent to the University of Warsaw. Skeletons of Pariasaurians proved to be especially abundant, and there were numerous remains of Dicynodonts, Theriodonts, and Deuterosaurians, besides well-preserved Labyrinthodonts. In December, 1899, Professor Amalitsky made a general report on his first year's official work to the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Petrograd, and published this as a separate pamphlet at Warsaw in

1900 ("Sur les Fouilles de 1899 de Débris de Vertébrés dans les Dépôts Permien de la Russie du Nord," with 5 plates of photographs of the excavations). In 1901 he made a more precise communication to the French Academy of Sciences ("Sur la découverte, dans les dépôts permien supérieurs du nord de la Russie, d'une flore glossoptérienne et de reptiles *Pariasaurus* et *Dicynodon*," Comptes Rendus, 4 Mars, 1901).

With much trouble Professor Amalitsky engaged and trained some skilled masons to extricate his fossil skeletons from the intractable matrix in which they were embedded, and more than one unfortunately succumbed to the effect of the peculiar siliceous dust which the work produced. At last, however, he secured a goodly series of specimens ready for study, and when I saw the collection at Warsaw in 1903 he had already mounted six fine skeletons of *Pariasaurus*, one of the Theriodont *Inostransea*, and a large number of important pieces of Dicynodonts and Labyrinthodonts. Photographs of some of these were published in Sir Ray Lankester's *Extinct Animals* (London, 1905), and plaster casts of a few characteristic specimens were given by Professor Amalitsky to the British Museum in 1913. Professor and Mrs. Amalitsky visited the British Museum several times during the progress of their work, but unfortunately the new duties at the Warsaw Polytechnic involved much distraction, and when I last met the Professor in London in 1912 he told me he had abandoned all hope of being able to describe the collection himself, and proposed shortly to send one of his students to the British Museum to make himself competent for the task. The War unfortunately disarranged this plan, and it is sad to realize that Professor Amalitsky will not now see the fruition of his labours.

Professor Amalitsky was a single-minded student beloved by all who knew him, and while lamenting his premature loss to science, his friends will tender their heartfelt sympathy to the amiable helpmate who was his constant companion in research.

A. SMITH WOODWARD.

HENRY ROBERT KNIPE, F.L.S., F.G.S.

BORN 1855.

DIED JULY 26, 1918.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Henry R. Knipe, who devoted much time and labour to the popularization of the study of extinct animals in this country. With the aid especially of the Staff of the British Museum, and utilizing its collections and library, he attempted to portray the animals of the past as they appeared when living, and, sparing no expense, he employed the most skilled artists to carry out his plans. Among those who produced his restorations may be mentioned Mr. John Smit and Miss Alice B. Woodward. His earliest efforts were published as a series of plates illustrating a long poem named *Nebula to Man* (London, 1905). More recently a still finer series of restorations, chiefly by Miss Woodward, was issued in his more systematic work in prose, *Evolution in the Past* (London, 1912). Apart from his scientific studies Mr. Knipe's interests were wide and varied, and by his death Tunbridge Wells loses one of its most esteemed citizens and most generous philanthropists.