

Gabriel Warton Lee, D.Sc.

GABRIEL WARTON LEE, who died suddenly of heart failure in Edinburgh on December 1, 1928, received his education in Geneva, where he crowned a distinguished University career by taking the degree of D.Sc. He was specially attracted to the study of geology, and in 1905 joined the staff of Sir John Murray in Edinburgh, where he carried through a series of important investigations on the deep-sea deposits brought back by the *Challenger* Expedition. The results of his researches on glauconite, undertaken in conjunction with his cousin and colleague, L. W. Collet (now Professor at Geneva), were published in 1905-6 in the *Proceedings* of this Society. His special knowledge of palæontology led to his being invited in 1907 to take charge of the Palæontological Department of the Scottish Geological Survey. He became responsible for the fossil collections stored in the Survey offices or exhibited in the Survey galleries in the Royal Scottish Museum, and to him fell also the determination of the material annually obtained from natural sections and from borings and shafts. He gained an unrivalled knowledge of the fauna of the Carboniferous rocks, and his reports on material collected from exploratory borings in search of coal, ironstone, or oil-shale were of the utmost value to the mining industry. He made important contributions to the Survey *Memoirs* dealing with the Carboniferous rocks of the Edinburgh (1910) and Glasgow (1911 and 1925) districts, of East Lothian (1910), and of North Ayrshire (1930), and in 1911 published a monograph on the British Carboniferous Trepostomata in the Survey series of palæontological memoirs.

He was also a recognised authority on the Mesozoic rocks of Scotland, and his work on these is embodied in his monograph on "The Mesozoic Rocks of Applecross, Raasay, and N.E. Skye," issued in 1920, and in the later memoirs on Mull (1925), East Sutherland (1925), and Ardnamurchan (to be published shortly).

In addition to his official work, Dr Lee undertook from time to time the description of fossils brought back from the Arctic regions by various expeditions. Among these may be mentioned the collections made by the late Dr W. S. Bruce in Prince Charles Foreland in 1906-7, described in a paper contributed to the *Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh* in 1908; and those made by the same explorer at Cape Cherney on the west coast of southern Novaya Zemlya in 1898, described in the *Trans-*

actions of this society in 1909. Part of the material obtained by Professor O. Holtedahl during the Norwegian expedition to Novaya Zemlya in 1921 was also submitted to Dr Lee for determination and description (see *Report of Scientific Results*, No. 22, Kristiania, 1924).

His last years were passed in the shadow of increasing ill-health, and to this was very largely due the outward appearance of reserve which he maintained. To those who were admitted to his intimacy, however, he showed a warm and rich personality, somewhat enigmatic and wayward as it seemed at times, but courageous, sincere, and loyal to the core. From his father, the late Dr A. B. Lee of Geneva, well known as the author of *The Microtometist's Vade-Mecum* and of many valuable papers on cytological subjects, he inherited a passion for scientific thoroughness and accuracy. He was a skilled and judicious observer, with an acute and well-stored mind, and the legacy of original research which he bequeathed to Scottish geology is one of work well and faithfully done.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1910.

M. M.