

PROFESSOR IGINO COCCHI,
For. Corr. Geol. Soc. Lond.

BORN 1828.

DIED 1913.

WE regret to record the death of the veteran Italian geologist, Professor Iginò Cocchi, of the Museum of Natural History, Florence, Italy. Born at Terrarosia, in the Val di Magra (province of Massa) in 1828, he at first devoted himself to literary studies, especially Latin literature, afterwards to chemistry, anatomy, and botany, and finally to mineralogy and geology, notably palæontology and stratigraphy. Having graduated at the University of Pisa, he completed his studies abroad, especially at Paris and London. Later on he gave to the town of Florence his collections, which formed the nucleus of an important palæontological collection.

Returned to Pisa, he was for some time assistant to MM. Savi and Meneghini; he collaborated with Cont. A. Spada and others in the reorganization of their collections; and finally was appointed Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at the R. Istituto di Studi Superiori in Florence.

He founded the Alpine Club of Florence, and in 1867, under the Minister of Agriculture (M. Cordova and afterwards M. Broglio), established the Reale Comitato Geologico.¹ He was not a prolific writer; only a dozen papers stand to his credit in the Royal Society Catalogue, and some twenty or so separate memoirs.

DR. ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE,
O.M., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., Etc.

BORN JANUARY 8, 1823.

DIED NOVEMBER 7, 1913.

THE closing year (1913) has borne away another of the great naturalists of the nineteenth century, whose researches and writings have so profoundly influenced biological science, and opened up for us entirely new conceptions of life both past and present.

Alfred Russel Wallace was born at Usk, Monmouthshire, on January 8, 1823; his family was not Welsh but Scottish in origin. His father, a man of literary tastes, was a briefless barrister with a family of nine children, of whom Alfred was the youngest but one. The future naturalist left school at 14, and from that time set himself to read *Mungo Park*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and later Lyell's *Geology*, Darwin's *Journal of a Naturalist*, Humboldt's *Travels*, *The Vestiges of Creation*, etc. His parents intended he should become a land surveyor and architect, but Nature designed him for a traveller and naturalist, and Dame Nature as usual prevailed. He practised surveying for some time in the Midlands and in Wales. Later on he was drawing master at the Collegiate School, Leicester. Here he became acquainted with Henry Walter Bates, and this proved the turning-point in his career. Bates, like Wallace, was born to be a naturalist, and the two decided to go in company to the Tropics to study animal life and make collections. They sailed from London in 1848. Wallace spent the next four and a half years collecting birds in South America. Returning home in

¹ From Gubernati's *Dict. Internat. Ecrivains du Jour*.