a fitting tribute to his pioneer work on Asian Flora.

As a man Father Blatter was kind-hearted and generous, full of wit and humour, which never forsook him even under the most trying conditions of his health. His life was a selfless one, true to his calling as a Jesuit and to the science he loved. His premature death is a great loss to the science of Botany to which he rendered outstanding services.

R. H. D.

* * *

Professor P. Sampat Iyengar, M.A.

IT is with deep regret that we record the premature death, on Tuesday, 24th July 1934, of Mr. P. Sampat Iyengar, retired Director-Professor of Geology in Mysore, at the early age of 55.

As an officer of the Mysore Geological Department for nearly thirty years, Mr. Sampat Iyengar published numerous important papers in the Records of the Department, and was largely responsible for formulating many of the fundamental ideas regarding the Geology of Mysore which are even to-day guiding the work and shaping the policy of the Mysore Geological Department. His address on "The Acid Rocks of Mysore" from the Presidential Chair of the Geology Section of the Indian Science Congress (Nagpur 1920) still stands as a valuable and authoritative statement on this aspect of Mysore geology. His very intimate and intensive knowledge of the Archæan rocks, both in and outside Mysore, together with his ripe experience and mature judgment in this field of study naturally gave him a prominent place in the foremost ranks of Indian geologists.

As Professor of Geology in the Mysore University for 12 years Mr. Sampat Iyengar was actively associated with the work of the University; and the present leading position which the Geology Section of the University occupies among similar institutions in India and the reputation which it enjoys as a place for instruction and centre of research, is in no small measure due to his untiring endeavours.

Apart from his eminence as a geologist, the late Mr. Sampat Iyengar possessed certain admirable traits of character which largely contributed to make his personality really 'dynamic'. An honest and whole-hearted devotion to duty, a burning enthusiasm for work, a frank and fearless expression of views, a stern sense of discipline and an uncompromising adherence to principles —these were some of Mr. Sampat Iyengar's outstanding virtues for which he will ever be remembered.

In his private life, Mr. Sampat Iyengar was orthodox, simple, and unostentatious. By his genial manners and genuine affection he had formed a large circle of friends to many of whom his death comes with all the poignancy of a personal bereavement.

L. RAMA RAO.

* * *

WE deeply regret to announce the death of Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, M.Sc. (Allahabad), D.Sc. (London), Reader in Botany at the University of Lucknow, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Botanical Society, Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. He died at Lucknow on August 5, 1934, after a brief illness at the age of about 37 years.

An Alternative Atom.

IN a letter addressed to the *Sunday Statesman* (Aug. 5, 1934) Dr. R. Samuel, Dr.Phil. (Göttingen), F.Phys.Soc., Professor of Physics, Muslim University, Aligarh, has critically examined the theory of Dr. Tutin concerning the structure of the atom. Dr. Tutin's attack on the classical Rutherford-Bohr atom, which has received much publicity in the non-scientific press, according to the Professor, is "ill-founded and far from the truth." "In order to construct quantised orbits of the order of magnitude of the atoms, he has to assume new electrical forces of non-Coulombian character, which have never been observed and for whose existence there is no evidence whatever. In order to explain Rutherford's experiments on the scattering of X-particles, he has to ignore these forces later on but in spite of this he is not able to come to an agreement between his theory and experimental results. Since in his theory the mass of the atom is not concentrated in the nucleus but assumed to form mainly the outer sphere of the atom, the theory falls into terrible and ridiculous difficulties, the moment he deals with isotopes. These few arguments may be sufficient to show that 'all his results are just pious hopes and no more, and most of them are demonstrably wrong'."