

CENTENARIES

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Bussiere, Paul (d. 1739)

PAUL BUSSIERE, a French Anatomist, fled his country on account of his being a Protestant. He was naturalised in England, where he soon attained high reputation. He attended on Queen Caroline. According to Lord Harvey, the King and Queen had a great opinion of him and preferred him to every other man of his profession.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

Bussiere was one of the first to introduce a course of lectures on anatomy into England. He was a Member of the Royal Society and contributed six papers to its *Philosophical transactions*. He also published two books: (1) *Lettre a M. Bourdelin pour servir de reponse au sieur Mary sur L'usage du trou oval dans la foetus* (1700) and (2) *Nouvelle description anatonique du cocur des tortues terrestres de l'Amerique et de ses Vaaisseaux* (1713). He also contributed frequently to the *Memoires* of the Academy of Sciences of his native land.

Bussiere died at London, January 1739.

Gabb, William More (1839-1878)

WILLIAM MORE GABB, an eminent American Palæontologist, was born in Philadelphia, January 20, 1839. His parents kept a millinery shop. He graduated in Classics in 1857. But his interests were in minerals and fossils. Hence he spent the next three years in studying under James Hall, the foremost among the then palæontologists of America. He formed useful contacts with many experts by frequent visits to the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution.

HIS CAREER

In 1861 he was appointed palæontologist on the Geological Survey of California. In 1867 he went to survey the Lower California. From the next year he surveyed Santo Domingo for about three years. In 1873 he did similar work in Costa Rica, where exposure to costal fever damaged his lungs.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

Even in his twenty-second year, Gabb was considered to be the best authority on cretaceous marine palæontology. He contributed as many as 88 papers in his short span of thirty-nine years. Fifteen of these were on cretaceous fossils. The whole of the second volume and nearly a half of the first volume of the palæontological series of the Geological Survey of California were from his pen. V. 20 of Petermann's *Mittheilungen* contains his report on Lower California. The *Transactions* of the American Philosophical Society contains his memoir of 200 pages on the island of Santo

Domingo. The geographical part of his work on Costa Rica appeared in 1875 as a Government publication; but before the palæontological work could be published, Gabb died of consumption, May 30, 1878.

Vernon-Harcourt, Leveson Francis (1839-1907)

LEVESON FRANCIS VERNON-HARCOURT, a British Engineer, was born in London January 25, 1839. His grandfather was Archbishop of York. Having had his earlier education at Harrow and Oxford, he learned engineering under Sir John Hawkshaw from 1862 to 1865. From 1866 to 1870 he was resident engineer at the East and West India Docks. After seeing service under several harbour authorities, he settled down in London in 1878 for consulting practice. From 1882 to 1905 he occupied the Chair of Civil Engineering in the University College, London.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

As consulting engineer, he acted for a number of public bodies—chiefly harbour authorities, canal and other navigational authorities. He was the author of eighteen papers, published in the *Proceedings* of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He also contributed several others to the Royal Society, the British Association and the Navigation Congress. His chief books are *Rivers and canals* 2 V. (1882), *Harbours and docks* (1885), *Civil engineering* (1902) and *Sanitary engineering* (1907).

HIS VISIT TO INDIA

In 1896 he came to India at the request of the Calcutta Port Authorities to inspect and report on the navigation of the Hooghly. His report appeared in the *Proceedings* of the Institute of Civil Engineers, in 1905. In 1906 he was a member of the International Consultative Commission for the Suez Canal works.

HIS HONOURS

His reputation stood high in Europe. He was appointed as a member of the Jury for the Paris Exhibition of 1900 and the St. Louis Exhibition of 1904. Next year he was President of the Mechanical Science Section of the British Association. For his services on an international jury in Vienna in connection with schemes for large canal lifts, he was made a Commander of the Imperial Franz-Joseph Order of Austria-Hungary. His essay *On the means for improving harbours established on low and sandy coasts like those of Belgium* was placed second. He was also awarded a Telford medal, a George Stephenson medal, Telford premiums and a Manby premium. He bequeathed a 1000 l to the Institution of Civil Engineers to provide biennial lectures on his subject.

After a few weeks' illness Vernon-Harcourt died at Swange, September 14, 1907.