Alexander G. Supan, 1847-1920.[1]

Prof. Supan, famous geographer, whose death was recently announced, was born in Innichen, Tyrol, March 3, 1847. He completed his education at the universities of Graz, Vienna, Halle a. S., and Leipsic. In 1884 he became editor of *Dr. A. Petermann's Mitteilungen aus Justus Perthes' Geographischer Anstalt* and served in that capacity for 25 years. From 1884 to 1909 he held the professorship of geography at the University of Czernowitz, and the same position at the University of Breslau from 1909 on. Probably his best-known work is his *Grundzuge der physischen Erdkunde*, which reached its sixth edition in 1916. Of his works that particularly interest meteorologists may be mentioned: *The Cloudiness of the Earth*, an extensive discussion started by Behm and Wagner, which he completed; *Distribution of Rainfall over the Land-Surface of the Earth*, published in 1898; and *Statistics of the Lower Winds*.—*H. L.*

Dr. Max Margules.

Lieut. Col. E. Gold has prepared an obituary which appears in *Nature* for October 28, 1920, which discloses the sad circumstances of Dr. Margules' death, on October 4. It is said that "his death was due to starvation. He had been living on a pension of 400 crowns a month (which is equivalent to 8s.) [$1.40], and he was too proud to beg for assistance." Dr. Margules became secretary of the Meteorological Institute at Vienna in 1890, having entered the Austrian Meteorological Service in 1880 after studying at Vienna and Berlin. He was 64 years of age.

His work concerned itself chiefly with mathematical discussions of the mechanics of the atmosphere. Among the especially noteworthy works is mentioned the computation of the pressure oscillations of the atmosphere on a rotating globe, in which he found that the period would be exactly 12 hours if the temperature were −5° C. In the Year Book of the Meteorological Institute of Vienna for 1903 he gave a comprehensive discussion of the energy of storms, arriving at the conclusion that "the source of storms is to be sought only in the potential energy of position."

To quote from Lieut. Col. Gold:

> Margules retired from active participation in the work of the Austrian Meteorological Service during the directorship of the late Prof. Pernter and applied himself to the study of chemistry. He fitted up a small laboratory in his own house, where he lived in comparative retirement. The present writer was saddened to see him there in 1909 entirely divorced from the subject of which he had made himself a master. Meteorology lost him some 15 years ago and is forever the poorer for a loss which one feels might and ought to have been prevented.

—*C. L. M.*

[1] An extensive obituary by H. Wagner appears in *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, July-August, 1920, 140-146.

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C. F. TALMAN, Professor in Charge of Library.

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