SAMUEL BOARDMAN BROWN

PRACTICALLY on the eve of the new school year, Professor Samuel Boardman Brown, head of the department of geology and mineralogy, West Virginia University, was stricken with cerebral hemorrhage the afternoon of September 18, 1926.

Professor Brown was possibly the best known instructor at West Virginia University. Graduating from this school in 1883 with the A.B. degree, and in 1886 with the M.A. degree, he became connected with his alma mater as assistant in geology in 1890, he was promoted to professor in charge in 1892, and served continuously for thirty-four years and to the time of his death in this capacity. Thousands of his former students are to be found over the state and country. Several geologists of high rank are included in the number.

Born on March 5, 1860, in Preston County, W. Va., a son of Granville and Elizabeth (Watson) Brown, he received his preparatory education in the local schools. Following his graduation at West Virginia University, he was in charge of a private school at Martinsburg, West Virginia, for two years. In 1885 he was elected principal of the Glenville (W. Va.) State Normal School, a position held until his return to his mother college in 1890.

Much of the geological equipment at West Virginia University was collected or bought privately by Professor Brown. This material, together with a set of mounted animals and birds prepared or purchased by him, has been given to the university by him or by his family, and will serve as a continual memorial to his interest in science. The mounted specimens will be placed in the museum of the zoological department.

Professor Brown was one of the committee on the organization of the West Virginia University Scientific Association, and the second president of this association, 1915–16, a member of the Monongalia Historical Society and other organizations. He refused at least one distinction usually much desired. For many years and to the time of his death he was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Few of his colleagues realized his contribution to scientific work. He was an early and vigorous advocate of a West Virginia Geological Survey against strong opposition. This opposition later disappeared, and a survey was built up which has published a set of reports ranking with the best in the country. Professor Brown prepared Bulletin No. 1 for the survey (published 1901). This is a combined bibliography and cartography for the state. Among other publications may be mentioned: "The Soils formed upon our Different Geological Formations," West Virginia *Argus* (Kingwood), May 25, 1893; "Sheep on Red Permian Soil," *Farm Reporter,* January, 1895; "The Topography of Soils of West Virginia, 1907" (published in "The Agricultural Possibilities of West Virginia" for the Jamestown Exposition); "The Geography of West Virginia, 1912" (published as a supplement to "Frye's Geography"); "The Saltsburg Sandstone as a Building Stone," SCIENCE, May, 1918; "Mineral Springs of West Virginia," *West Virginia School Journal and Educator,* February, 1922.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION ON THE ISLAND OF BALI

THE following account of a recent volcanic eruption on the Island of Bali, in the Indian Ocean, forwarded by Edward M. Groth, American Consul at Soerabaya, Java, under date of September 4, 1926, has been received at the Smithsonian Institution from the Department of State:

I have the honor to report that during the night of August 2, 1926, an eruption took place on the slopes of the Goenoeng Batoer, which is one of the most famous volcanic peaks on the neighboring island of Bali.

Reports which appeared in the local press and tales of returning travellers indicated that the eruption was a most impressive sight. A great column of flame and smoke was visible many miles out at sea, and the thunderings of the eruption itself were clearly heard in the town of Boeleleng on the other side of the island.

A large cleft appeared on the western slope of the mountain and from this an enormous quantity of lava flowed down the mountain side, completely destroying a native village. Great quantities of rock were thrown out, to the accompaniment of mighty explosive thunderings. During the first days of the eruption the lava flowed at a speed of approximately two kilometers per twenty-four hours, the flow being more than a kilometer wide and about thirty feet thick.

The government vulcanologists, who rushed to the scene of the eruption and remained there for some weeks, at the time of their departure, estimated that the total flow of lava during the first fortnight was more than one hundred million cubic meters.

Due to prompt and active measures taken by the governmental officials on the island of Bali, no lives were lost as a result of the eruption and the subsequent destruction of the village of Batoer.

The eruption has continued with more or less activity during the entire month since the first outbreak, but the lava flow is somewhat less than it was a fortnight ago.

It is of interest to note that practically all of the volcanoes of Java when in eruption emit ashes, rocks or