

## OBITUARY NOTICE.

## THE LATE MR. HENRY SEEBOHM.

As a man of science and letters and a great traveller, Mr. Seebohm was widely known, but with Buckinghamshire men he had only recently become personally acquainted. He had come to reside in the southern part of the county, and last year was his first introduction to the Society, when the Annual Meeting of the Members was held at Ivinghoe. It was felt on that occasion that a distinguished man had joined the Society, who had shown a desire to promote the objects it had in view, and that it would be a graceful act to elect him to the office of Vice-President. Mr. Seebohm was accordingly elected, and it was hoped that he would long have been connected with the Society, and would have given it the advantage of his literary eminence. It is true that his pursuits were not strictly archæological, but he had wide culture, and was associated with an elder brother who is the first authority on our earliest social customs and tenures, so that the objects of our Society would readily claim his interest and assistance. Mr. Seebohm was elected a Vice-President in August, 1895, and the Society had to lament his death in the following November. Shortly after the event, "The Athenæum" gave so admirable a sketch of his life-work that it has been here appended as the most appropriate way of perpetuating the memory of one whose loss to the scientific world has been so seriously felt.—Ed.

"The enthusiastic ornithologist who succumbed to the results of influenza, on November 26th, was a younger brother of Mr. Frederick Seebohm, of Hitchin, author of 'Lives of the Oxford Reformers,' 'Village Communities,' etc. Born at Bradford in 1832, Henry Seebohm was fond of natural history from his youth, and during the last five-and-twenty years he travelled widely in order to study birds, especially during their breeding season. Greece, Asia Minor, and Norway were successively visited; and in 1875 he joined Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown in a highly successful trip to the lower valley of the Petchora in North-Eastern Russia. In 1877, Mr. Seebohm pushed farther east, and accompanied the well known Capt. Wiggins to the Yenesei. These adventurous journeys are vividly described in 'Siberia in Europe' and 'Siberia in Asia' (Murray), which are, we believe, out of print. A feature of the first of these works was an 'aside' in the shape of a crisp account of a visit to Heligoland, as bearing upon the migration of birds. The scientific results of both

journeys appeared in the 'Ibis,' and a paper on the second was read before the Royal Geographical Society. Henceforward Mr. Seebohm devoted his attention specially—though not exclusively—to Northern Asia and Japan; he employed collectors, purchased collections, and from time to time made munificent donations to the British Museum (Natural History), besides writing, as an acknowledged expert, on the Turdidæ, Vol. V. of its 'Catalogue.' Among his most important works may be mentioned 'British Birds, with Coloured Illustrations of their Eggs,' 'The Geographical Distribution of Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes,' and 'The Birds of the Japanese Empire'; he also published several schemes of classification and many other papers on ornithology. For some years, and up to the time of his death, he had been one of the honorary secretaries of the Royal Geographical Society; he was a Fellow of the Linnean and Zoological Societies, as well as a member of the British Ornithological Union and its Club; and as a geographer and a naturalist his presence will be much missed. Consistently with his liberality in life, his valuable remaining collection of birds are bequeathed to the Natural History Museum."