

OBITUARY NOTICE.

VISCOUNT MORI ARINORI.

[Read March 19th, 1889.]

Since our last meeting, our Society has suffered a severe loss in the death, by assassination, of its President, Viscount Arinori Mori, Minister of Education. To the deep general interest which Viscount Mori took in things educational, he added a keen appreciation of all new and progressive ideas. No doubt this particular mental trait disposed him to take a special interest in the young science with which our Society deals. In 1885 he was elected our President; and, although his manifold duties prevented his regular attendance at our ordinary meetings, his strong sympathy in our aims and labours was attested in many ways. Soon after his appointment as Minister of Education, the chair of Seismology in the Imperial University was established. Last year, at his express wish, a Committee of architects, engineers, and other representative scientific men, was called together to consider the methods of construction best fitted to resist earthquake motion. Several preliminary reports have already been presented; but the Committee is still engaged in making experiments and collecting information. The final report, when handed in to the Central Government, will be of its kind, the most voluminous and complete yet written, and will always bear testimony to the zeal and forethought of the late Minister of Education. When any special lectures on Seismology were given, Viscount Mori was rarely absent;

and in these and other ways he gave substantial support to Seismological investigations.

Viscount Mori was well versed in Natural Science and Literature, more particularly in History and the study of Languages. Under his *régime* in the Educational Department, the whole system of education throughout the country has been placed on a new basis and powerfully developed. His encouragement of gymnastic exercises as a means of strengthening the physique of the students of this empire, and his steady regard to the influences that mould them, intellectually and morally, are especially worthy of mention. The increase in the number of schools, and their improved status throughout the country, are largely to be traced to Viscount Mori's unwearied exertions. One of his latest schemes was the making of schools as far as possible self-supporting.

Viscount Mori's sad and unexpected death on February 11th has occasioned a serious loss to all connected with education in Japan; and we, of the Seismological Society, have to mourn the loss of a President that could ill be spared.
