

## MEMORIAL OF REINHARD BRAUNS

EDWARD H. KRAUS,

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

As the result of being run down by a streetcar in his home city, Dr. Reinhard Brauns, for many years Professor of Mineralogy and Petrography at the University of Bonn, Germany, died on January 28, 1937, after eight days of intense suffering. Although he was in his seventy-sixth year, Professor Brauns had been in the best of health, and was, until the very last, actively engaged in mineralogical research to which he had devoted more than fifty-five years. In fact, only an hour before the accident, which proved to be fatal, he finished an article on *The Mystery of Zircon*, which has since been published in the *Deutsche Goldschmiede-Zeitung*. With the passing of Dr. Brauns we have lost another of our great leaders, for he belonged to that group of European mineralogists who contributed so signally to the development and advancement of mineralogy and allied sciences during the last six decades.

Reinhard Brauns was born at Eiterfeld, near Cassel, Germany, August 20, 1861. His early academic life was spent in Marburg, where he attended the Gymnasium and the University from which, in 1885, he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In 1887 he sustained the examinations for appointment as Private Dozent at the University of Marburg where he remained until 1894, when he became Professor of Mineralogy and Geology at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe. A year later, he was called to a similar position at the University of Giessen, which he held until 1904, when he accepted a professorship at the University of Kiel. After three years at Kiel, he began, in 1907, his long career as Professor of Mineralogy and Petrography at the University of Bonn, where he taught so successfully until his retirement in 1934. From 1907 to 1927 he was also an honorary professor at the Agricultural College located in Bonn.

As a scientist Professor Brauns was very versatile, for his numerous contributions dealt with many phases of mineralogy and petrography. Of his publications, which number nearly two hundred, reference will be made only to his classical studies on the optical anomalies of crystals, his excellent treatise on chemical mineralogy, and his many articles dealing with the rocks and minerals of the volcanic areas of the Rheinland and the famous Laacher See district. To these must be added many fundamental papers in which he discussed the properties of gem minerals, for Professor Brauns was long interested in natural and synthetic gems, and sought to cooperate with the gem industry of Germany through frequent visits to the important gem-cutting district of Idar-Oberstein.



REINHARD BRAUNS,  
1861-1937

Professor Brauns was, moreover, very skillful in interesting large circles in crystals and minerals, for his excellent and profusely illustrated volume entitled *The Mineral Kingdom*, which appeared in 1903, has been translated into four languages—Italian, Russian, Czech, and English. No doubt, it is safe to say that for over forty years all students in Germany who became interested in mineralogy were familiar with his small and inexpensive elementary book on mineralogy, which was first published in 1893 and of which over one hundred thousand copies of the seven editions have been sold.

In addition to his activities as professor and author, Dr. Brauns had a notable career as editor of the *Neues Jahrbuch* and of the *Zentralblatt für Mineralogie, Geologie, und Palaeontologie*. He served these journals from 1917 to 1934. During this period, in addition to his regular duties as editor, he reviewed and abstracted an exceedingly large number of important articles and books on subjects in mineralogy and related sciences.

The contributions of Professor Brauns and his standing as a scientist were widely recognized, for he was elected to honorary membership in the Mineralogical Society of Germany, of which he was one of the founders, and in the Natural Science Associations of Coblenz, of the Rheinland, and of Halle, and in the Mineralogical Society of London. He was also a corresponding member of the Norwegian Academy of Science of Oslo. In 1928 he was elected an honorary life fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America.

His superior services to mineralogy and higher education were also recognized by his colleagues at the Universities of Giessen and Bonn, for at the former institution he served as Rector in 1903 and at the latter as Dean of the Philosophical Faculty in 1918. Moreover, the University of Bonn conferred upon him, after his retirement, an honorary Doctor's degree. In 1931, upon the occasion of his seventieth birthday, a special volume of eight hundred and fifty pages of the *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie, Geologie, und Paleontologie*, containing forty-three articles contributed by his former students and friends, was dedicated to him.

Professor Brauns possessed an unusual insight into and knowledge of mineralogy and the cognate sciences. As teacher, investigator, author, and editor, he was conscientious and painstaking. As a man and friend, he was very charming and lovable. With many others who were privileged to know him, I shall always cherish the most delightful memories of my friendship and visits with him.