THE LATE PROFESSOR TRAIL.

In Memoriam:

Professor JAMES W. H. TRAIL, F.R.S.

Died, 18th September, 1919.

IN the death of Professor Trail we have lost an old and valued member of the Club. He had been a member for five-and-twenty years, and attended many of the Club's excursions, particularly those on Saturday afternoons. His presence was always welcome, for he was a delightful travelling companion, and his botanical knowledge was always at the service of his fellow-excursionists and was given freely and unaffectedly to all enquirers. The Club was very specially indebted to him for the complete and authoritative list of the "Flowering Plants and Fern Allies of the Cairngorms" which he contributed to the fourth number of the *C.C.J* (January, 1895). We have had more than one request in recent years for that issue, but, unfortunately, it has been long out of print. The demand, however, shows how thoroughly the value of the article is recognised by those continuing the work of botanical research in our higher altitudes.

From an appreciation of Professor Trail by Mr. Alexander Macdonald, Durris, in the November number of the *Aberdeen University Review*, we take the following passage, illustrative of the Professor's personal charm as a travelling companion :—

His genial and friendly association with his men required no checks to keep up the proprieties. On a sunny wild sea-bank he might lie at lunch-time and discuss many themes of past and present life ; and, though far from being a self-centred man, when opportunity presented he would tell of his experiences in his early travels in South America or in his innumerable wanderings in the home counties. He might discuss small-pox as it affected the savages of Brazil, or unrecorded features of our Scottish Alps. His knowledge of Entomology was extensive and accurate, and his familiarity with local History, Topography, Antiquities, and even Genealogy, may be put alongside that of specialists. Like all genial men, he enjoyed a good story, especially when humoursome, and his excellent memory kept his store replete.