

DR. E. VON REBEUR-PASCHWITZ.

E. VON REBEUR-PASCHWITZ was born in 1861, and died, after an illness of ten years, on the first of the present month. In many ways he always seemed to me to resemble our incarnation of the ideal man of science. He had Darwin's lovable nature, as well as his modesty and utter carelessness of his own fame. But the likeness was closest in the unceasing energy with which he laboured, in spite of the constant suffering that would have made many stronger men feel their life's work was done.

For some time von Rebeur-Paschwitz was a Privat-docent in Astronomy at the University of Halle. His first notable

achievement was, I believe, the modification of Zöllner's horizontal pendulum, the two springs by which it was supported being replaced by agate cups resting on fine steel points. The earlier investigations with this instrument were intended to be of an astronomical character, but its wonderful sensitiveness to the pulsations of distant earthquakes soon became apparent, and he was gradually led to give more time to their study, until he became the chief authority on this fascinating branch of seismology. On two occasions he contributed articles to NATURE on this subject (vol. xl. pp. 294-295 ; vol. li. pp

208-211), and, at the request of the Earth Tremors Committee of the British Association, he wrote an admirable summary of his results up to the middle of 1893. As this is readily accessible, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon his achievements here. I will merely add that since that date he has written several papers on earthquake-pulsations in Petermann's *Mittheilungen* and the *Astronomische Nachrichten*. His last memoir, and one of the most valuable, has just been published in Gerland's *Beiträge zur Geophysik*.

For several months before his death, von Rebeur-Paschwitz was occupied with a scheme for the organised study of earthquake-pulsations all over the globe. The suitability of his horizontal pendulum for this purpose had received ample proof, and nothing but the want of health seemed likely to prevent the fulfilment of his plans. These, no doubt, will be carried out by other, if less skilful, hands ; but to him will belong a great part of the credit for any results that may be attained. Dying at thirty-four, he had done work which most men of twice the age might regard with satisfaction as the fruits of a well-spent life. CHARLES DAVISON.