

Obituary**MR F. A. VOIGT**

Mr F. A. Voigt, whose death is announced on page 1, was formerly editor of "The Nineteenth Century and After," and for many years the "Manchester Guardian's" correspondent in Berlin. He was 64.

Frederick Augustus Voigt was born in Hampstead; his father was of German birth, but had lived many years in England and had become a British subject. He was educated at Haberdashers' Aske's School and at Birkbeck College, where he first studied biology but took his degree in modern languages; besides his formal subjects of French and German, he had taught himself Latin, Greek, and Anglo-Saxon. His first link with the "Guardian" was formed when he coached J. G. Hamilton (one of the paper's most distinguished foreign correspondents) in German

Voigt was strongly recommended to C. P. Scott by the Principal of Birkbeck in 1914; but war intervened, and he did not join the staff until 1919. Before joining the Army, he taught modern languages for a year at Abbotsholme School. He then served for three years in the Royal Garrison Artillery, in England and on the Western Front. Some of his Army experiences went into a sharp-edged little book, "Combed Out" full of the horror and squalor of war.

He joined the "Manchester Guardian" in May, 1919, working for some months in the advertising department and went to Berlin as assistant to Hamilton in February, 1920. Hamilton soon moved to Paris and Voigt became the main Berlin correspondent.

His later years in Berlin were dominated by the rise of the Nazi movement. He was among the first journalists to recognise the peculiar nature of Nazism and its dangers for the world, though he was at first inclined to think that it would die out as better times came to Germany. But he had been too frank about it to be

acceptable in the Third Reich; and soon after he had left it he was given to understand through intermediaries, that if he attempted to return he would be imprisoned. He remained in Berlin until 1934 (except for a spell of eighteen months in 1928-30, when he worked mainly as a leader-writer in Manchester). Then after a short spell in Paris he came to London to be the "Guardian's" first Diplomatic Correspondent. In 1938 he took on also the editorship of "The Nineteenth Century," while continuing as Diplomatic Correspondent until 1940.

In 1938 he published what was perhaps his most important book on international affairs, "Unto Caesar," a powerful warning against dictatorships of the Left and the Right alike. In January, 1940, he was invited to join the Department for Publicity in Enemy Countries in charge of its intelligence section, and left the "Guardian," hoping to return after the war. He continued to edit "The Nineteenth Century" and for a time incurred much unpopularity by his criticisms of some of Britain's war-time allies, to the point that Mr Brendan Bracken, then (July, 1944) Minister of Information, described the journal in the House of Commons as "the favourite paper of Lord Haw-Haw." In a libel action which arose from a subsequent comment by a newspaper on this statement, however, Voigt's integrity was completely vindicated.

Voigt gave up the "Nineteenth Century" in 1946. He visited Greece to gather material for another important book on international affairs—"The Greek Sedition"—and followed it with "Pax Britannica." He was at work, when he died on a further book on the lines of "Unto Caesar." He was also writing regularly for American periodicals. He had been in poor health since a visit to Germany last Easter when he was found to be suffering from an apparently mild angina; a thrombosis developed very suddenly a few days ago.

Voigt was three times married, his first wife was Margaret Goldsmith the author, with whom he collaborated in a biography of Field-Marshal Hindenburg.