no longer retain locked up in his own mind such an invaluable store of knowledge, but will forthwith hasten to render it available for the edification of the geological world.

I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours,

JAS. GEIKIE.

KILMARNOCK, 13*th May*, 1867.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE "OCCLUSION" OF HYDROGEN BY METEORIC IRON.

AT a meeting of the Royal Society, held on Thursday, May 16th, Thomas Graham, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., read a paper, the subject of which was suggested by a previous one communicated to the Society in June last.[1] The author has now examined the "natural gases" of meteoric iron. The Lenarto iron, when distilled in vacuo (by means of Sprengel's Mercurial Exhauster), gave 2·8 times its volume of gas—85 per cent. of which was pure hydrogen. It is evident that the iron must have "occluded" its hydrogen from a similar atmosphere to that proved by Messrs. Huggins and Miller to surround many of the fixed stars, of which Alpha Lyræ is the type. The discovery is a remarkable confirmation of the results of Spectrum analysis.—W.C.R.

OBITUARY.

DR. JAMES BLACK.—We regret to have observed the notice of the decease of Dr. James Black, an old geologist, at Edinburgh, on April 30th last, at the advanced age of 79. He formerly resided at Bolton-le-Moors and Manchester, where he was widely known and generally esteemed. He was a graduate of the University of Glasgow, and Fellow of the College of Physicians of London, and actively engaged in scientific pursuits, in addition to his profession, but chiefly devoted himself to Geology and Antiquities. He joined the British Association for the Advancement of Science at its commencement in 1831, and had the honour of being elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1838, and that of France in 1848. When residing in Manchester he belonged to its Geological Society, and took an active part in its proceedings, both as member and office bearer, and also to the Philosophical Society of that city. He contributed numerous papers to each, those to the latter being chiefly archæological, and among those to the former may be mentioned—"On the Object and Uses of Geological Research," in 1841; "View of the Geology of the Isle of Arran," 1846; "Eclectic View of Coal Formations," 1847; "Submerged Forests of Great Britain," 1843; "On the Diluvium of Bolton," 1845; "On the Elevation and Depression of the Crust of the Earth," 1851. He was an assiduous collector of rock and fossil specimens from South Lancashire, and presented a large number to public museums, besides keeping up a considerable private collection.—J.W.B.

[1] On the absorption and dialytic separation of gases by colloid septa.

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