

OBITUARY.

GEORGE HIGHFIELD MORTON, F.G.S.

BORN JULY 9, 1826.

DIED MARCH 30, 1900.

GEORGE H. MORTON, the well-known Lancashire geologist, was born in Liverpool in 1826, and educated at the Mechanics' Institute in that city. From a child he was interested in geology, and at 16 years of age he commenced to form a collection of fossils, some Ammonites, obtained at that time, having first excited his interest. He also purchased, and read with earnestness, an article entitled "The Mineral Kingdom" in Knight's "Store of Knowledge," and "The Romance of Geology" in "Chambers' Miscellany." Other works of more importance were obtained and diligently studied. In those days textbooks on scientific subjects were few in number, and there were no science classes in Liverpool which young Morton could attend. He continued to collect minerals, rocks, fossils, and shells, which he named at the Royal Institution, Liverpool.

In 1845 Morton examined the Boulder-clay at Egremont, and the New Red Sandstone quarries at Storeton with their wonderful footprints of *Cheirotherium* and other reptiles on the slabs of ripple-marked sandstone. In 1847 he visited Holywell, where he obtained a few Carboniferous fossils. In later years he worked at and described this formation in great detail. He contributed his first paper of importance to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool in 1856, "On the Subdivisions of the New Red Sandstone between the River Dee and the rise of the Coal-measures east of Liverpool." He also contributed papers to the British Association, the Geological Society of London, etc. In 1864 he was appointed Lecturer on Geology at Queen's College, Liverpool, where he taught successfully for several years.

Most of Mr. Morton's published papers relate to home geology or to the Carboniferous Limestone of North Wales. His "Geology of the Country around Liverpool" was published in 1863, and a second edition appeared in 1891. This work contains all his previous writings on local geology. An appendix was added in 1897, giving the results of constant and careful observations in the field extending over fifty years.

Mr. G. H. Morton was a member of numerous scientific societies, and founded the Liverpool Geological Society in 1859. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1858, and in 1892 was awarded the Lyell Medal by the Council in recognition of his long and meritorious services to geology in the work which he had done around Liverpool, especially for the knowledge of the Triassic and other strata of that district.

"The Geology of the Country around Shelve," "The Carboniferous Limestone of North Wales," and "The Country around Llandudno," the last-named read before the Geological Society of London, well illustrate the earnest and careful labours of Mr. Morton's long and well-spent life. He passed away very peacefully on the 30th March in his 74th year.