

consideration, and it should certainly have the sanction of a responsible committee. This is desirable not only to prevent the duplication of names and the proposal of unnecessary names, but also on behalf of a good and necessary name, which would thus stand a better chance of being generally adopted.

Being myself responsible for the proposal of several stratigraphical names I can fully understand both the positive and negative advantages of submitting them to a committee, and one practice which such a committee could practically prevent, by refusing to sanction it, is that of giving formal geographical names to divisions which have no greater importance than zones.

Moreover, there are cases where the same stage is known by different names in different countries, and if such tribunals existed in two or more European countries they might combine to decide which of the two names should be adopted.

I think the committee might be appointed by the Council of the Geological Society and its members hold office for a term of years, and that it might consist of seven members, with the proviso that one was always chosen from the staff of the Geological Survey.

A. J. JUKES-BROWNE.

TORQUAY.

March 9.

OBITUARY.

R. B. BROCKBANK.

BORN 1824.

DIED JANUARY 31, 1912.

THE late Richard Bowman Brockbank, who died at The Nook, Crosby, near Maryport, Cumberland, on January 31, in his 88th year, was a much-esteemed member of the Society of Friends, and was well known in the district around Carlisle as an able farmer and breeder of excellent horses and cattle. To the geologist he is notable as the discoverer of the fact that the shales and limestone bands around Great Orton and Aikton, west of Carlisle, are of Liassic and not (as then supposed) of Carboniferous age. He called the attention of E. W. Binney to the subject, and Binney has described what he saw of the Lias of Cumberland in *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xv, p. 549. More detailed observation, on the part of the present writer, has added but one section to those shown to Binney (see *Geol. Survey Mem., Geology around Carlisle*). For the ground is persistently drift-covered, and any sections in the underlying rocks are very few and small.

In addition to being shown the positions of sections in the Lias, I have to thank Mr. R. B. Brockbank for much information kindly obtained for me with regard to old borings and observations that would otherwise have remained unnoticed, and which have a special value in a district of this kind.

T. V. HOLMES.