

that Mr. Bynne, of the Geological Survey of India, had discovered worked agates in the Bone-beds of the Upper Godavery, which are, there is little doubt, of the same age as those of the Nerbudda, which contain *Elephas (Stegodon) insignis*, *Elephas (Loxodon) Namadicus*, *Hippopotamus palæindicus*, *Bos palæindicus*, *Bos Namadicus*, etc. I am endeavouring to stir up the interest of the public in the matter of Ancient Man, and to get some one to investigate the Limestone Caves of the Khansas, Birmah, etc.; but most of our limestone caves are in remote provinces, and I am afraid we shall have to wait a few years yet."—EDIT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.—The Council have awarded the Neill Prize for the triennial Period 1862-65 to Andrew Crombie Ramsay, F.R.S., Professor of Geology in the Government School of Mines, and Local Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, for his various works and memoirs published during the last five years, in which he has applied the large experience acquired by him in the Direction of the arduous work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain to the elucidation of important questions bearing on Geological Science.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The Council have decided to award the Wollaston Gold Medal this year to Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., F.R.S., in acknowledgment of the eminent service he has rendered to the science of Geology by his published works and researches.

The Council have further decided to award the Wollaston Donation-fund to Mr. Henry Woodward, in aid of his further researches in the Fossil *Crustacea*.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to advance Sir Roderick Impey Murchison to the dignity of Baronet, "in recognition of distinguished merits and attainments."—*Reader*, Dec. 30, 1865.

OBITUARY.

NICHOLAS WOOD, F.R.S., F.G.S., Mem. Inst. Civ. Eng. This eminent mining engineer, was a native of Tyneside, and the intimate friend and companion of the late George Stephenson, many of whose discoveries he assisted in bringing before the public notice. For more than forty years he has been actively engaged in mine-engineering, and was justly regarded as the greatest authority upon every branch of the subject, whether scientific or practical. In 1852 he was elected President of the Northern Institute of Mining Engineers, when he delivered the inaugural address, and he has since considerably promoted its success by devoting to it all his influence, talent, and much of his time. He contributed a number of very important papers on Geology and

Mining, which are printed in the Transactions. He died, after a short illness, on the 19th December, 1865.¹

PROFESSOR FORCHHAMMER.—We have to announce the death of Professor Forchhammer, the eminent Geologist, and Secretary of the Copenhagen Academy of Science, to which office he succeeded in 1851, on the death of Oersted. He was born at Husum, in Schleswig, in 1794, and in 1818 he became Orsted's secretary, and accompanied him on a mineralogical expedition to the island of Bornholm. He subsequently made several journeys in Great Britain, France, and Denmark, at the expense of the Danish Government. In 1825 he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen, and a Foreign Member of the Geological Society of London. Ten years later he was chosen Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Copenhagen. He was the author of several works on Geology and Chemistry, and he also contributed many papers on these subjects to the Academy. It is to be regretted that these memoirs, being published in Danish (a language not generally understood), are to some extent inaccessible to scientific men. Professor Forchhammer studied with great care the physical effects of ice in producing geologic changes, and also the composition of sea water at different parts of the earth's surface.—*Reader, Dec. 30, 1865.*

DR. K. A. OPPEL.—Science has to deplore the death, at Munich, on December 22, 1865, of this young and accomplished geologist, who has been removed from us at a period when his energies were in full activity for the advancement of science, to which he was firmly devoted, and for the interests of the University of Munich, to which he was attached as Professor. Great as must be the loss to his relatives and colleagues at Munich, it will be almost equally felt by those friends to whom he was known in this country, and by whom he was personally esteemed.

Dr. Oppel's labours were devoted chiefly to the investigation of the Jurassic rocks, and his researches were especially interesting and important to English geologists, to the advancement of whose knowledge his monographs have contributed, enabling them to co-ordinate the zones of Jurassic life with those tabulated in his work on the Jura formation of England, France, and south-western Germany (published in 1856). This work appeared subsequently, and was perhaps partly in consequence of an extended tour Dr. Oppel made, more than ten years since, in the Oolitic districts of this country, over some portions of which he was accompanied by the well-known French engineer and geologist, M. Triger, and Professor Morris. He visited Dorset, Somerset, Bedford, Gloucester, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, carefully examining all the sections exposed, collecting a large series of fossils, and studying the private cabinets of some of our best authorities on the Oolites, as those of Mr. Leckenby, and Drs. Lycett and Wright, by whom he was kindly received. The rich stores accumulated on this and other excursions, and the trouble

¹ See also Biography, in *Colliery Guardian*, vol. x. p. 333; and Obituary *idem* pp. 489 and 493. 1865.

he took to identify species, enabled him, upon his return, to compare them with the continental published and unpublished forms, and thus increased the value of the work above noticed, and unfolded his notions of the co-relations of the English strata,—a subject which had received the attention of Dr. Oscar Fraas in a previous essay.¹

The later labours of Dr. Opperl were equally important, bearing as they do on Jurassic Palæontology. The Palæontologische Mittheilungen is a work intended to comprise descriptions and figures of the new or little known fossils contained in the fine collection of the Royal Museum at Munich. The parts published consist of the descriptive text and eighty-eight plates, thirty-nine of which are illustrative of twenty-four genera, and seventy species, of *Crustacea* from the Lias, Dogger, Oxfordian, and Kimmeridge strata. The remaining plates are chiefly of *Ammonites* and some other forms, amongst which may be noticed an interesting Cirriped, the *Pollicipes Redenbacheri*, from Solenhofen, a form somewhat resembling *Mitella*. The following are the new genera established by Dr. Opperl in this work:—*Stenocheirus*, *Pseudastacus*, *Etallonia*, *Pseudoglyphea*, *Acanthochirus*, and *Udorella*. Many of these are from the rich deposit of Solenhofen, the fossils of which locality in the Munich Museum are probably unrivalled, although the British Museum now contains the Häberlein collection, which includes many beautiful specimens, and among the rest, that remarkable form, the *Archæopteryx*.

An attack of typhus fever terminated Dr. Opperl's useful labours at the early age of 34 years. He leaves a widow and infant son to deplore his loss.

During Dr. Opperl's geological researches, he had amassed a very extensive and complete collection of *Ammonites*, consisting of several thousand specimens, which, it is hoped, will be purchased by some European or American Museum for the benefit of his family.

The following is a list of Dr. Opperl's published works:—

Ueber eineige Cephalopoden der Jura formation. Württemberg, 1856.

Die Jura formation Englands, Frankreichs und des Süd-westlichen. Deutschland, 1856.

Weitere Nachweise der Kössener Schichten in Schwaben und in Luxemburg.

Acanthoteuthis antiquus zu Gammelshausen bei Boll. 1856.

Pterodactylus in Lias Württembergs. 1858.

Classification de la Formation Jurassique d'après les Caracteres Paleontologiques. 1859.

Die neueren Untersuchungen über die Zone der *Avicula contorta*. 1859.

Ueber die Brachiopoden des untern Lias. 1861.

Ueber die weissen und rothen Kalke von Vils in Tyrol. 1861.

Palæontologische Mittheilungen aus dem Museum des Koenigl. Bayer. Staates. Parts I.—III. Stuttgart 1862. Parts IV. and V., 1865.

Die Tithonische etage. 1865.

¹ Translated in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, 1851, vol. vii. part ii. p. 42.