

Another point concerns the status of the Tertiary igneous rocks of the Western Isles of Scotland. Messrs. Dewey & Flett consider that they belong to the Atlantic branch (p. 242), but advance no reasons for that view, which is, of course, in flat contradiction to that of Mr. Harker. No comment need be made save that it requires more than a mere *ipse dixit* to reverse Mr. Harker's opinion as to their Pacific relationships expressed in his *Tertiary Igneous Rocks of Skye* (1904), p. 417 (although the actual term Pacific is not here used), and later in the *Natural History of Igneous Rocks* (1909), pp. 99, 108.

G. W. TYRRELL.

GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.
June 8, 1911.

OBITUARY.

REV. ROBERT BOOG WATSON, B.A., F.R.S.E.

BORN 1824 (?).

DIED JUNE, 1910.

WE learn from the address of Professor Watts to the Geological Society, 1911, of the death last year of the Rev. R. Boog Watson. His most important geological paper, "On the Great Drift Beds with Shells in the South of Arran," was published in 1864 (*Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, xxiii). His observations led him to conclude that all the latest geological changes have not materially affected the relations of hill and valley; that the valleys were largely excavated by ice; that the ice covered the land until it was submerged; and that the depression of the land below the sea was continuous, and ultimately attained 1,000 feet at least. Another paper, "On the Marine Origin of the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy," was published only in abstract (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, xxii, p. 9, 1865).

MR. VERNON AUSTIN.—We regret to record the death on June 9, in his 70th year, of Mr. Vernon Austin, son of the late Mr. Stephen Austin, and the last of that name to represent the highly respected firm of Stephen Austin and Sons, Printers, Hertford (established for more than 100 years), who have printed the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE* since December, 1865, a period of forty-five years. The firm is now carried on as Stephen Austin and Sons, Limited, Printers, Hertford.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE President of the Board of Education has appointed Mr. H. H. Thomas to succeed Dr. J. S. Flett as Petrographer to the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

ROYAL SOCIETY CONVERSAZIONE.—Among objects of geological interest displayed at the conversazione on May 10 were—(1) Footprints from the Permian sandstones at Poltimore, Devon, exhibited by Principal A. W. Clayden. They bear a general resemblance to those obtained at Corncockle Moor and Penrith, though differing in detail. (2) Skeleton of *Ornithodesmus latidens*, a Pterodactyl from the Wealden shales of Atherfield, Isle of Wight, exhibited by Mr. R. W. Hooley.