

Perrey et ceux de M. R. Mallet, les soulèvements contemporains, etc.”—A. D’Archiac, Géol. et Paléont., p. 737, 1866.

“This found, I will, like a veteran rat, hasten away before I have an old house about my ears.”—W. Irving, Little Britain.

RÖNNE ON BORNHOLM, DENMARK,
April 12, 1874.

M. JESPERSEN.

HYBODUS, A COAL-MEASURE FISH.

SIR,—Allow me to correct an error that has inadvertently crept into my paper on the above subject, that appeared in last month’s *MAGAZINE*. The sentence at the foot of the group of illustrations says, “Teeth of *Hybodus* (Figs. 1 and 2), compared with teeth of *Cladodus* (Figs. 3–6).” It should have been, “Teeth of *Hybodus* (Figs. 1–3), compared with teeth of *Cladodus* (Figs. 4–7).” The whole tenour of my paper was to prove Fig. 3 a tooth of *Hybodus*, and not of *Cladodus*.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

W. J. BARKAS, M.R.C.S.E., etc.

THE FLEET. IN REPLY TO THE REV. O. FISHER.

SIR,—The Rev. O. Fisher has written a short letter, in which he objects to certain statements in my paper on the origin of the Fleet. I did not attempt to disprove Mr. Fisher’s theory, as I considered it unnecessary if I gave a better. I don’t think I said the present shore-line of the Fleet was formed by marine erosion, because since it became a lagoon it must have been considerably modified; due to the meteoric waste of the adjoining land, the growth of peaty accumulations, and the erosion due to wind and the waters of the lagoon. I should imagine the original shore-line was a gradual curve, while at present it is full of indentations and small bays.

From what data can Mr. Fisher affirm that there were “never marginal cliffs to the lagoon”? If cliffs had once existed, and composed of frail materials, they would long since have disappeared, and all surface traces of them have been obliterated, the ground being now a long gradual slope; this is the case with the lagoon called Lady’s Island Lake, mentioned in my paper. But in drainage or similar works, sections will be exposed showing the site of the cliffs. From the Ordnance Maps I question if any of the margins of the lagoons I enumerated would be considered due to marine erosion; yet in most cases in their vicinity the old sea cliffs can be traced, but not always without railway works or other deep cuttings.

I strongly suspect if the bank of the Fleet is moving inwards, that the margin of the Fleet will do likewise, and this seems to be allowed by Mr. Fisher, so that if its area is curtailed on one side, it increases on the other, and eventually, if the bank is moved backwards to the original cliff-line, still the Fleet will be found behind it, or an alluvial flat that can be reclaimed.

I do not understand what Mr. Fisher means when he says, in connexion with the bays he enumerates, they “cannot possibly have been formed by the sea, they must be drowned valleys.” Now all the lagoons I have seen must be “drowned” or submerged valleys;

but that does not prevent marine action having previously taken a part in excavating them. Marine and meteoric denudations may have formed them at the first, but marine action built the bar across them, while marine and meteoric action is now filling them up, sometimes one and sometimes the other being the chief worker.

G. H. KINAHAN.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DISCOVERY OF A COAL SEAM AT SANDWELL PARK.—A coal seam, two and a half feet thick, was lately struck in the Sandwell Park trial sinking, West Bromwich, at a depth of 380 yards, the seam “dipping” six inches per yard. Several mining engineers of great experience have visited the colliery, and pronounce the seam to be “brooch coal,” in which case there can be little doubt that the thick coal measure is not far distant. The discovery has caused a good deal of excitement in the district, and an important advance in the value of the shares has already been established. Subsequently another seam known as the “Herring-coal” was reached, and the last reports state that they are still sinking in splendid Coal-ground.

OBITUARY.

PROFESSOR PHILLIPS,

BORN 25TH DEC. 1800. DIED 24TH APRIL, 1874.

The sad intelligence has just reached us of the loss of one of England's most eminent geologists, and, to very many amongst us, of a most dear and valued friend. Prof. Phillips's death was the result of an accident. On the 23rd April he had been dining at All Souls' College, and was returning, accompanied by the Principal of Jesus, when, in crossing the top of a staircase, his foot unhappily slipped, and he fell headlong down a flight of stone stairs. Paralysis and unconsciousness came on instantly, and about one o'clock on the 24th he expired. He was just 73 years of age.

Left an orphan at eight years of age to the care of his uncle William Smith, well known as “the father of English Geology,” he was, as one may say, “to the hammer born.” His connexion with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society dates back to 1826, and with the British Association from its establishment in 1831; indeed “he was the life and soul of its annual *réunions*.” He presided over his favourite Geological Section last year at Bradford in his usual happy and delightful manner.

His connexion with Oxford dates back to 1853. He has long outlived Buckland, De la Beche, Faraday, and Murchison, and has survived Sedgwick little more than a year. Few men have been more highly esteemed in life or will be more sincerely regretted in death than John Phillips.¹

¹ See Biographical Notice of Prof. Phillips (with a Portrait), *GEOL. MAG.* 1870, Vol. VII. p. 301.